

ed the remarks made by that hon. gentleman as most impertinent and uncalled for.

Mr. McCALL deprecated so great an expenditure in respect to counsel's fees as that which the Government had authorized.

Mr. HARDY said he should not have spoken had he not been referred to by several gentlemen. In the remarks he had made on a previous occasion he merely deprecated the running away from the subjects under consideration and the discussion of side issues. He regarded even the explanation of the hon. member for South Grey as most absurd, and the reference to ordinary payments to counsel to be found in the expenditure of former Governments.

Mr. BOULTBEE rose to address the House, when

Mr. HARDY rose to a point of order, on the ground that the hon. member had spoken to the original motion and the amendment.

Mr. BOULTBEE said he spoke previously under misapprehension. When he addressed the House on the last occasion he was not aware that an amendment had been moved.

Mr. SPEAKER said it must be assumed that the hon. gentleman had spoken to the amendment, but with the courtesy of the House he might speak again.

Mr. BOULTBEE said he did not desire to have that courtesy extended to him, and would not speak again.

Mr. MERRICK deprecated the use of personal allusions in debate, and proceeded to defend the charges of extravagance which had been brought against the Government. He considered it was the duty of hon. gentlemen to point out what they considered extravagant expenditure.

The amendment was then carried.

IMMIGRATION AGENTS.

On the order for resuming the debate on Mr. Rykert's motion respecting Immigration Agents,

Mr. RYKERT said the information he desired could be obtained in the Public Accounts Committee, and he would therefore move that the order be discharged.

The order was consequently discharged.

LINE FENCES.

The House then went into Committee on the Bill respecting Line Fences.

The Committee reported the Bill without amendment.

The third reading was ordered for tomorrow.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT moved that the Hon. Mr. Fraser be on the Public Accounts Committee in the room of the Honourable the Attorney-General. He explained that the duties which devolved upon him rendered it impossible for him to attend the meetings of the Committee, and he desired this change to be made.

Mr. CAMERON said there was a good deal more involved in this than appeared on the face of it. The business of the Committee was delayed by discussions of an irrelevant nature, and they were particularly desirous of not having the Provincial Secretary there to take up the time by talking. Gentlemen who supported the Government were chiefly obstructives, and they did not desire to meet with any further obstruction in the investigation of the Public Accounts. They had found the Commissioner of the Public Works guilty of a violation of the principles of the Constitution. They had found him using the influence of the Government in Dominion elections. They had also found large extravagance in reference to the Public Accounts. They had discovered that by a skilful manipulation the work of the Central Prison had been taken out of the hands of Mr. Elliott, and that by this action an enormous sum of money had been squandered. He strongly denounced this step of at the end of the session by which it was desired to place another member of the Government on the Committee and thus retard the investigation of the Public Accounts. They objected to the most loquacious and talkative member in the House being put upon the Committee, and he charged the Government with endeavouring by this means to stifle the investigation of the accounts, and prevent a full and fair enquiry being proceeded with. He stated that the Sandfield Macdonald Government were satisfied with five members to four on that Committee, yet the present Government must have seven to four. He next complained of this motion being sprung upon the House at so late an hour and

before so thin a House, and proceeded to refer to the items in the Public Accounts.

Hon. Mr. FRASER rose to a point of order. He held that the honourable gentleman had no right to refer to items of the Public Accounts.

Mr. SPEAKER said the Public Accounts might be referred to generally, but not any particular item.

Mr. CAMERON then moved an adjournment of the House, and proceeded to refer to

the taking of the contract for the Central Prison work from Mr. Elliott. He stated that the return brought down showed that the architect and the engineer of the Government were in favor of an extension of time being given to Mr. Elliott, and under the circumstances every person would have given the extension. They found that as soon as the Government took charge of the works the workmen and foremen struck for increased wages, and it became necessary these wages should be given. This showed the disadvantage of a work of this kind being carried on without contract and competition. No addition was required to the Committee to facilitate the examination into the Public Accounts. The number was quite large enough. Two gentlemen could make a report to the House in a week which would startle the country. As it was, they were not enabled to get at the bottom of the Accounts so clearly as they desired, and in order to make the task more difficult it was proposed to put the Provincial Secretary on the Committee. They were thwarted at every step, and there was some difficulty in obtaining the papers required. He then referred to the disappearance of the letter of the Commissioner of Public Works directing a holiday to be given to the men as

an instance. The Central Prison he was satisfied was going to be a very expensive work, and he deprecated the contract entered into with the Canada Car Company for the supply of prisoners. The hon. gentleman announced at 12:35 that unless the hon. leader consented to the adjournment of the House he was prepared to speak for three hours. He had before spoken for six hours.

Mr. MERRICK rose to a point of order, and said he did so to give the hon. leader of the Government an opportunity of moving the adjournment of the House.

Hon. Mr. MOWAT said he had been greatly interested by the speech of the hon. gentleman. He had experienced much pleasure in listening to his observations, and was loth to disturb the hon. gentleman in a speech which promised to be at once instructive and interesting. However, as the object he had in view—that of introducing the subject—had been attained, he had great pleasure in seconding the motion for adjournment moved by the member for East Toronto. (Laughter.)

The House adjourned at 12:40.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, March 4.

The first witness examined this morning was

Mr. KNIGHTON, time-keeper at the Central Prison works. Fault was found by Mr. Cameron with erasures in the time-books, which witness explained had been rendered necessary by clerical errors, which had been afterwards corrected. For the time the men were absent on the election days, they were "docked." On the 29th of January, those of the men who desired to vote in the morning went away at breakfast time, and witness had rows with several men on pay-day when they found the time had been stopped.

Mr. HARDY—Do you, Mr. Cameron, object to the men going to cast their votes?

Mr. CAMERON—Certainly. It is not right

Mr. KNIGHTON said he never saw the letter giving Mr. Wagner authority to give the men a day holiday. He searched his drawer in the safe at the works for the letter on Friday last, and assisted Mr. Wagner to search his drawer. He (witness) received no orders to make any allowance for the men who attended the elections.

Mr. HUGH MELVILLE was next called in, and stated that he was a sub-contractor on the Central Prison works. He subsequently became a contractor under the Board of Works department. The change which took place in the management of the works materially increased his work, probably \$3,000. His work under Mr. Elliott would probably have come to about \$20,000. The Government raised the wages of the stone-masons and bricklayers, and the men in his (witness') employ complained, and