

Hon. Mr. CROOKS said that at the time of Confederation the necessity of the rule he had cited was recognized, and that provision was made to meet it. He considered this order overcame the one referred to by the hon. member for Lincoln.

Mr. LAUDER contended that the motion of Hon. Mr. Blake with respect to the distribution of the surplus was a precedent for the motion it was endeavoured to prove out of order.

Hon. Mr. FRASER quoted a case in the British Parliament bearing upon the subject and contended that the motion was out of order.

Mr. RYKERT referred to a case in the Dominion Parliament where the Speaker ruled a motion in order of a similar kind, on the ground that it was a mere expression of opinion, and did not presume to appropriate any money or was a step in the direction of legislation hereafter.

Mr. CAMERON said this motion was a mere expression of opinion, upon which hon. gentlemen opposite could act or not as they pleased, and it was neither appropriating money nor a step in the direction of legislation hereafter.

Hon. Mr. FRASER said it would be absurd to suppose that this resolution could pass and no legislation should follow. The case quoted from the records of the Dominion Parliament would have an entirely different effect, and would result in the stoppage of proceedings to appropriate money, instead of leading to the appropriation of any, as in this case.

Mr. GIFFORD contended that the motion was out of order.

It being six o'clock, the House took recess.

We are compelled to hold over the remainder of the report.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, March 11.

The Committee of Public Accounts met today at ten o'clock.

Mr. N. F. Dickey, of the firm of Dickey, Neill & Co., contractors on the Central Prison Works, was the only witness examined.

In reply to questions, he stated that his firm had a contract at the Lunatic Asylum under the Sandfield Macdonald Government, as well as for the new Hospital. The amount of the latter contract was \$2,500, and the former \$23,500. The contract on the Hospital was entered into previous to Confederation, and the work was in progress when the Sandfield Macdonald Government was formed. The \$23,500 contract was for iron material and castings connected with the Asylum, and, so far as he was aware, there never had been any advertisement for tenders. The firm were doing work at the hospitals of the Asylum at the time, and witness spoke to Mr. Carling about being allowed to do the work on the wings at the same prices as were being paid to his firm for other work. It was afterwards arranged between Mr. Carling and witness that the prices should be modified with regard to the particular item of verandah bars, and that they should be at eight instead of ten cents per pound. The iron required was arranged to be purchased in England by special agreement, and was of the exact size. He could not tell exactly what percentage of profit was made upon the work in question; thought the castings and iron were laid down at the work for 2½ cents per pound, as iron was cheap at the time; and at any rate the purchase was a very fortunate one. There was no tender put in for the work; there was a verbal agreement with Mr. Carling, and afterwards a contract was entered into. The contracts were in writing, and could be produced if required.

By Hon. Mr. FRASER.—The firm at that time got 4c per pound for castings, and for the window bars and sashes 12½c per pound. He thought this was correct, but he did not quite recollect. Sash weights were got for 3c per pound, but they were of the very cheapest material. They finished the \$23,500 contract in the fall of 1870, he thought. They also built a steam engine for the Sandfield Macdonald Government, which was used for the purpose of pumping at the Asylum. That was not included in the contract referred to, and was advertised for tender. He believed the tender of his firm was the lowest, being about \$900. He had from time to time been accustomed to do general jobbing work on that building, and was paid by the day and by the hour. He first did work under the present Government in the fall of 1872. It was work in connection with

the Central Prison, and they had also continued to do general jobbing work at the Asylum as under the preceding Government. He thought the first work they did on the Central Prison was under the contract for the alteration of the buildings. They also contracted to build the steam-engine, shafting, and some other work of the same nature. There were tenders called for in respect of the steam-engine, witness having received a letter from the Department, with the specifications accompanying it, asking them to furnish a tender for the steam-boilers, castings, and other works in connection. The latter was official, from Hon. Mr. McKellar. The firm to which witness belonged gave in a tender, and so did Mr. Currie. He believed his firm tendered lowest, and they got the work accordingly. Mr. Currie was a boiler-maker, but did not make castings himself. Witness was under the impression that he must take estimates from those who did make castings before he would be enabled to make his tender. The firm of Dickey, Neill, & Co. did other work on the Central Prison besides the engine referred to. They built some iron columns necessary for the alteration of the buildings; they also fixed the hangers and shafting in their places. That would have been tendered for along with the other, but the building being incomplete it was impossible to say what would be required. It was therefore agreed that they should do it under the supervision of the Government Inspector of Machinery, and was considered in the same category as ordinary repairing and jobbing. He believed, now that the work was finished, that it amounted to about \$20,000 altogether. He was unable to say what amount of that had not been tendered for. The Government Inspector, Mr. Banks, kept the time of the men on the portion of the work not contracted for; he reported the time to the firm; the men were paid accordingly, and the amount charged to the Government. Witness and his partners did work in connection with the water supply at the Central Prison to the amount of \$9,000 or \$10,000; the total amount for that work and the other to which reference had just been made would be about \$29,000. The work in connection with the water supply was done under tender; he could not say whether they had been advertised for or not, but he rather thought not. It was an extension of the existing system of supply, and was given to them because they had been doing the work and had the patterns of the original system. They did not build the original engine, but they replaced it before Confederation, some seven or eight years ago he thought. The contract price for castings was 8c per pound at the Central Prison works. Most of them were special castings, and the price of making the patterns had to be included. They were getting 10½c per pound for wrought iron work, and the engine, boilers, shafting, &c., were similar to the same articles supplied to the Sandfield Macdonald Government at the Asylum. The price of iron was lower when they took the contract from Mr. Carling than ever it had been before or since, in his experience. Witness then produced a statement of prices of the various materials used in his business during the fall of 1868 and the beginning of 1869:—Pig iron \$22 to \$22.50 per ton; bar iron, \$2.20 to \$2.25 per 100 pounds; boiler plates, 3 cents per pound; shafts, \$3.20 per 100 pounds; Lehigh coal, \$7.50 per ton; and wages \$1.50 to \$1.60 per day. He also submitted the following statement of prices during the fall of 1872 and the beginning of 1873:—Pig iron, \$46 to \$50 per ton; bar iron, 3½ to 4 cents per pound; plates, 5½ to 5½ cent per pound; shafts, 6½ cents per pound; Lehigh coal \$8 to \$9 per ton; and wages \$1.85 to \$2.25 per day. Any advance in their tenders were accounted for by the increased prices shown by a comparison of the above statement. The prices charged to the Government were the regular trade prices, which were charged to all their customers—even those who were in the trade themselves. They had done work for several railway companies, and especially for the Northern Extension Railway. From this latter Company they charged six cents per pound, and eight of the pieces weighed 8,000 pounds. He had brought the account copy book of the firm along with him to show to any member of the Committee who might desire it that he was correct in stating that the Government were only charged trade prices, and in many cases less. This applied to all items of work done so far as he knew. Witness then submitted a long list of well known firms for whom he and his partners in business had done similar work, and to whom they supplied similar articles to those furnished for the Central Prison at the same prices. Among others there were Thomson, Smith, & Sons, J. B. Smith, McMurray & Co., Dodge & Co., John Ross, & James