

time for the said half day, as if they had been at work.

"That it further appears from the said evidence, that men to the number of two hundred and eight, under the control of the said Wagner, were permitted to attend said nomination, and were paid out of the Public Funds of this Province for the said half day, the sum of two hundred and four dollars and seventeen cents, although absent, for the purpose aforesaid, from their work.

"That it further appears from the said evidence, that one H. M. Melville was a contractor on the said Prison, and had about forty-seven men under his employment at the said works, on the said eighth day of December last past; that on the morning of that day said Melville was absent from the said work, and while he was so absent his penman, one Foster, acting upon instructions from the said George Hellam, a foreman and inspector of the Government, under the said Wagner, who promised that the men of the said Melville should lose nothing by going to the nomination, allowed the men to attend the said nomination, and the said Melville caused the said men to be paid, but the said Wagner refused to repay him the amount paid for the said half day, which was about forty-seven dollars.

"That the said Hon. Archibald McKellar was present at the said nomination on the hustings.

"That the said Honourable Archibald McKellar admits the writing of the letter to the said Wagner, authorising the said half-holiday for the men to attend the nomination, and the payment of their wages, and alleges his reason for so doing, 'he thought it was only a proper and graceful thing for the Government to give their men the same indulgence as other employers of labour did.'

"Be it, therefore, resolved that the action of the said Honourable Archibald McKellar in authorising or permitting the said men, to the number of two hundred and eight, to take a half-holiday, and paying them for their time as if at work, was an improper interference by a member of the Government of Ontario in an election for the Commons, and calculated to unduly influence the men in the employment of the Government, and was an act subversive of the freedom and purity of elections.

"That freedom and purity of elections are essential to a just representation of the people and to good government, and it is the duty of this House to condemn any member of this House or of the Government who may be guilty of any act calculated to interfere with such freedom and purity of election.

"That the payment of the sum of two hundred and four dollars and seventeen cents to men to attend a political meeting was an unauthorised and misappropriation of the public money.

"That for the said acts the Honourable Archibald McKellar, in his character of Commissioner of Public Works and member of the Executive Council, deserves the censure and condemnation of this House."

He presumed it would be admitted that in the framing of this resolution temperate language had been used. He had heard, in times not long gone past, the mere writing of a private letter by a member of a Government to a friend described as a most improper interference with electoral freedom; and yet hon. members in their arguments on this matter would no doubt attempt to show that it was an indulgence which the Government ought to give to the men, and which would be a graceful and proper thing to do, because other large employers of labour did it. Even were that the excuse—which he repudiated without any hesitation or reservation—no act on the part of an employer of labour could justify the Government in this matter. But the evidence of the witnesses before the Committee upon this point went to prove that no such practice prevailed among employers of labour, and he quoted the evidence of Mr. N. F. Dickey to show that while that gentleman said that men were generally allowed to go to nominations if they pleased, they never

were paid for the time. But the Commissioner of Public Works had given the men permission to go to the nomination at the request of Mr. Dickey, who was well known as an ardent supporter of the Government, who admitted in his evidence that he knew Mr. McKellar well, that he had been helped by the Commissioner at his election contest in South Grey, and who could not therefore be mistaken for an ordinary private citizen coming to the Government on non-political grounds. The Commissioner of Public Works had made the matter much worse by pleading that he gave the permission from a desire to let the men hear both sides of the question. He would unhesitatingly assert

that there was not a man in the Chamber who believed that (Oh, oh). The Commissioner was by far too astute, too cunning, too able to be guilty of any such absurdity as that. The Commissioner went to that nomination himself, and he heard the men do what he must have known quite well before-hand, that they hooted and groaned at the opponents of Mr. Moss, and when his supporters rose to speak they cheered. He supposed the Commissioner thought the matter would be hidden, that nothing more would be heard of it; and he charged the supporters of the Government on the Public Accounts Committee with delaying the business of that Committee for the purpose of stifling further investigations into the accounts of the Province, pointing to the notice of motion for the sittings of the House to begin at 11 o'clock to show that the accounts could not be all looked into this year. In conclusion, he said that in placing this matter before the House, he wished to have a vote taken upon it as soon as possible. Any hon. gentleman of the Government might express his opinion upon it as he pleased, but he hoped as little time would be wasted over the matter as could well be avoided. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR said he had very little to add to the statement he had already made before the Committee the other day. He freely confessed that he did write the letter referred to at the time of the nomination, to let the men have the half-day. He had never denied it. (Hear, hear.) One thing, however, he did assert, that no intimidation was used by him or by any other person under his instructions, to cause the men to vote for one candidate or another. (Cheers.) He believed the evidence would not sustain any charge of that kind. Not only did he not interfere with the men at the Central Prison, but he positively refused to use his influence with employes of the Department when asked to do so on behalf of Mr. Moss. (Cheers.) It was quite true he gave the men permission to go to the nomination, but no charge of corruption or intimidation could be laid against him for that. (Hear, hear.) The question would be whether it was a proper thing for him to allow them to attend the nomination, and at the same time allow their pay to run on. He had himself been a working-man, and his sympathies were very strongly with working-men. (Hear, hear.) It was no great compliment to give a man a half holiday at his own expense, and he had been in the custom of giving men in his own employment a holiday or a half holiday upon like occasions without deducting anything from their pay. (Hear, hear.) He had stated before the Committee that he believed it was customary for employers in this city to do the same thing, and he was now in a position to cite two or three incidents of that kind. (Hear, hear.) In the first place the Canada Car Company permitted their men to go to the nomination on that same day, and paid them for it. (Hear, hear.) He might also cite the Great Western Railway Company in the same connection. He had it from one of their chief officials the other day, that they gave their employes from nine o'clock to one that day, and they were paid for full time. (Hear, hear.) He would only cite one more case in point. On reading the *Illustrated News* of the 14th February, he read that, on the day of the election of the late Prime Minister, the Woolwich artisans were allowed to leave their work at noon, and were not obliged to return again that day. (Government cheers, and cries from the Opposition benches of "Were the Woolwich artisans paid?") Hon. gentlemen were in too great a hurry; if they would only exercise the smallest possible amount of patience, he would satisfy them upon that point too. (Hear, hear.) Upon seeing the statement he had just quoted, he sent a cable telegram to London, asking whether the men were paid for that time; and about two hours ago he received this reply, which he would read for the benefit of the House:—"Arsenal men were paid polling day!" (Loud cheers.)

Mr. MEREDITH—To whom was the telegram sent in London? (Cries of "Oh, oh," and "Shame.")

Hon. Mr. McKELLAR, continuing, said here was clear proof that the Woolwich Arsenal men were allowed the half day on the occasion of the ex-Premier's election, and that they were paid out of the Exchequer for it. He had stated honestly and frankly what he did in this matter, and he did it from the best and purest of motives. He had produced precedents for his action; he had produced the highest authority to prove that the same practice prevailed in England, and that almost under the very shadow of Buckingham Palace itself. (Cheers.) He left his case in the hands of the House and the