

February 27, 1871

the cause of the trouble and bickering on this subject. If necessary the House had power to alter the Union Act, and meet this case fairly and equitably. No doubt it would be agreed to by the British Government. He recommended broad, liberal legislation, to render justice to all parts of the Dominion and abolish sectionalism.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY had no objection to lay the papers before the House. If, in the language of the member for Carleton, they would enable us to know ourselves, we should be under great obligations to the hon. member for having moved them.

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DOMINION OFFICIALS HIRED BY PROVINCES

Mr. GODIN moved for the names of persons employed by the Local Governments in connection with the Commission of Arbitration on the subject of the public debt of Quebec and Ontario. He said he understood an officer of the Dominion Government had accepted payment, \$1,000, from the Ontario Government for statements or calculations furnished for use in the arbitration.

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER said the Government knew nothing of it—at least, he did not. He recommended the withdrawal of the motion, as there was little information to furnish, and no objection to give such as they possessed.

Mr. MACKENZIE said it seemed to him to have been a very unfortunate and indecent proceeding for one of the chief officials of the Ottawa Government to allow himself to be placed in the opposition of the paid officer of a Government contesting matters of account in relation to the arbitrators. It had a tendency with other incidents connected with the arbitration to bring it into contempt when we found one of the chief officials of the Dominion making himself a party to a case in this way. He thought the House ought to interject its opinion against such an intermission of duty for the future, and to ascertain whether Ministers were disposed to defend such conduct. The Minister of Militia pleaded ignorance of the matter: but everyone knew the Ontario Government acknowledged having paid this sum of \$1,000. This state of affairs ought not to be allowed to continue. As a member representing to some extent the public opinion of Ontario, he felt bound to protest against such conduct on the part of Dominion officers. (*Cheers.*)

Hon. Sir GEORGE-É. CARTIER again protested he knew nothing of the matter. He had never read the budget speech of the Finance Minister of Ontario, because it was too long. (*Laughter.*) Every day we learned something new, and today such had been his experience.

Hon. Mr. CHAUVEAU said if any of the employees of the Government of the Dominion were required before this arbitration, when they pretended they were approached by that capacity, they should not have acted without the permission of that government; and if they had thought such officials should have gone—an

opinion he thought they should not have held—they should have paid them themselves. The officials should not have been paid by the Ontario Government. (*Hear, hear.*)

Hon. Sir A.T. GALT said that he thought there could be no question that gentlemen in the public service had no right to give their services at the request of any other parties whatever, and that any information desired by the Local Governments at the hands of the Government of the Dominion ought to form the subject of an official communication, and he thought that the proceeding in question, if it had occurred, was extremely irregular.

Hon. Mr. GRAY said no officer of the Dominion Government had been examined before the arbitrators except the Auditor General.

Hon. Sir A.T. GALT said no officer of the Government had a right to give his services at the request of any party, whether Government or individual.

Mr. BLAKE thought there was a peculiar impropriety in an officer of the Dominion Government acting in connection with the Arbitration question, and even in any service whatever on account of the Local Governments, and he was surprised that such a service should have been performed by Mr. Simpson, and still more so that it should now be stated that the head of the Department was not aware of his having done so, and of his having received payments for having done so.

The motion was carried.

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FORMS OF RAILWAY RETURNS

Mr. BLAKE then moved an address to His Excellency for copies of orders or directions made at any time under the Railway Act as to forms in which returns thereby required should be made up.

The motion, seconded by **Mr. MACKENZIE**, was put and carried.

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RAILWAY RETURNS

Mr. BLAKE then moved an address to His Excellency for copies of returns made by each Railway Company under the Railway Act of the late Province of Canada and the Railway Act of 1868, by which it is provided that each of the Companies affected thereby shall in January and July in each year make a true and particular return of accidents and casualties, whether to life or property. He said that many accounts had lately been heard of the unfortunate condition of one of the Railways in this country. On the one hand reports were made as to the very great irregularity which had occurred, and as to the very great number of accidents which had taken place, and as to the great amount of damage done, while on the other hand the most decided statements were made the other