

tingent committee. Still he maintained that the house ought not to relinquish the right to control the appointment of its officers. Of course, he would not, under the circumstances, press the matter; but if the scheme which Government proposed was not satisfactory to members, then for his part he would deem it his duty to move for such committee. During the previous debate it had been urged that the Contingencies Committee had recommended many new appointments and increased salaries—adding, in reality, to the expenses of the house instead of diminishing them. At the time he had no opportunity of looking over the proceedings of that committee, but he had done so since, and found out that the state of affairs was quite the contrary. He found out that year after year they had endeavoured to put checks on the speaker and Clerk in the appointment of officers; but they had failed in carrying these reports and the expenses went on increasing from year to year. At the commencement of a new era it was absolutely necessary that a check should be put on the old systems of corruption and waste, such as would be found by a Contingencies Committee. But in the meantime, he thought the report should be adopted, as by-and-by there would be an opportunity afforded of judging what measures would be taken by gentlemen on the treasury benches to repress corruption and extravagance. Not that he thought either the present Speaker or the head of the Government would be guilty of wasting the public money in unnecessary appointments; for as long as both filled their office the house would be perfectly safe in that particular; but, in desiring the appointment of this committee he looked to the future.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said he would cordially concur with his hon. friend opposite in checking the extravagance of the house; and, on a former occasion he (the Attorney-General) thought he had been explicit enough in explaining the policy of the Government in respect to the management of the house. The Government were surely as equal to take charge of the house and be responsible for its expenditure, as they were for other and more responsible departments? Their management was, as much open to censure, when merited, in the one case as in the other? And as the business of the house had to be carried on besides that of the other departments, and Government was willing to take the responsibility, why should there be distinction? Why not take out of the hands of the Government the control of the clerks in the other departments as well as in the house? Why refuse to trust the Government in the one instance and not in the other? Were the Government not exposed to equal responsibility in the two cases? In common with his colleagues, he felt that the Government had vast responsibilities; but they were prepared for them; and if in the matter of the house expenditure it were felt at the next session that the Government had gone beyond bounds, then the remedy was in the hands of hon. members. The Government would be careful, for they feared the responsibility of their acts. Gentlemen opposite were their daily dread—their horror—(laughter)—and Government would therefore do its best to keep within bounds. They were disposed to try this new plan; and if it failed, could readily go back to the old one.

Sir HENRY SMITH remarked that this was the second time since the opening of the House that the subject of the appointment of this committee came before them. He was disposed to support the Government in the course they had taken, and hoped the leader of the Government would persevere in abolishing this committee. If he kept firm, the House would support him.

Mr. BLAKE said his hon. friend the Attorney-General had asked why that House should not be dealt with by the Government in the same way as any other department. The answer was easy—Because the House was not a department, but an independent body, and passed judgment upon Ministers. He (Mr. Blake) would like, before sitting down to refer to one omission which had been made, and that was there was no public accounts committee.

Sir HENRY SMITH—There are no accounts for this year yet.

Mr. BLAKE hoped the house would have them soon. He would desire to call the attention of the house to the pharisaical talk of Government assuming the responsibility of the house in regard to all the small items of expenditure involved unless these items were scrutinised by some committee. If not the committee on contingencies, he hoped that at all events one on public accounts would be appointed.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD replied that the public accounts committee had been introduced years ago into the Parliament of the Province of Canada, but had been found to be useless and was abandoned. A statement of all the public income and expenditure of the Government, he would here announce, would be laid before Parliament to-morrow or the next day in print. (Hear). Then if hon. members were not satisfied it would be for them to ask for information in regard to any particular item of the accounts. If the Government could not show cause for the items, then they ought not to occupy their seats. The public accounts committee had not, he thought, been struck at all in the House of Commons this year, and at all events he was aware that they never sat, nor had there been a meeting of that committee for three or four years.

The motion that the report be adopted was then carried.

FIRST READINGS.

Mr. FERGUSON introduced a Bill amending the Act imposing a tax on dogs and for the protection of sheep in Upper Canada. Ordered for a second reading on Monday next.

Mr. McLEOD introduced a Bill to amend an Act relating to the municipal institutions of Upper Canada. Ordered for a second reading on Monday next.

Mr. McLEOD also introduced a Bill to amend an Act respecting assessment of property. Ordered for a second reading on Monday next.

Mr. BLAKE introduced a Bill intitled an Act respecting the disqualification of members of the Legislative Assembly. Ordered for a second reading on Monday next.

PROVINCIAL FUNDS.

Mr. McLEOD inquired whether or not there be any special funds not enumerated in the fourth schedule to the Act of Confederation, and the property of this Province, if any, the amount, and if the principal of all such funds has been transferred by the Federal Government, or, otherwise, if the interest be chargeable to the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Hon. Mr. WOOD replied that the special funds, which were the joint property of Quebec and Ontario, were enumerated in the 4th schedule of the British North American Act. The Government were not aware of any others besides these, except, perhaps, the improvement fund, which had been discontinued by Act of Parliament. A small balance remained to the credit of some of the municipalities, undistributed. None of these special funds—at least none that the Government were aware of—drew interest from the consolidated revenues of Canada.]

THE SEIGNIORIAL TENURE EXPENDITURE.

Mr. McLEOD enquired as to the policy to be urged by Government in the arbitration to take place between this Province and that of Quebec relative to the Seigniorial tenure expenditure in Lower Canada, and whether or not they regard the Upper Canada Municipal Loan Fund indebtedness as a set off against the expenditure, and the equivalent, which was to be given to Upper Canada Municipalities, not in default to the Receiver-General.

Hon. Mr. WOOD stated in reply, that Government conceived it to be its duty to give every consideration possible to the arbitration in order to secure a fair, equal and just division of assets between Quebec and Ontario, in this and all other questions that would be raised, argued and decided by the arbitration alluded to.

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTES.

Mr. McLEOD inquired whether or not it is the intention of Government to establish one or more institutions for the education of the deaf and dumb of this Province.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD stated that the Government had no intention to ask the house at present to make an appropriation for the purposes mentioned. They adopted this course in consequence of the uncertain position in which they stood in relation to the indebtedness between the Provinces.

CROWN LAND ARREARS.

Mr. BOYD inquired the intention with regard to parties now in arrears for purchase of Crown lands.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS stated that the Government had this matter under consideration, and had not yet arrived at a decision with respect to those who were in arrears.

BOUNDARIES OF ONTARIO.

Mr. BOYD inquired if the Government had taken any steps towards ascertaining the