

laid before the Legislature, precisely as it had been received from Ottawa; but there was a note appended saying that the statement was subject to the revision and correction of this Government. There were also the following items:—Removal expenses of Clerks, Registrar's Office, \$402; do., Legislative Assembly, \$264; Lunatic Asylum, on account of new buildings, \$6,000; expenses of elections, \$26,347 18; Government Buildings, Toronto, \$23,508 97; Judicial Buildings, Algoma, \$3,390 09; making a total of exceptional or extraordinary expenditure in the Dominion account of \$88,944 30, which, added to the \$9,298 54 in the payments by the treasurer, made a total of nearly \$100,000 of exceptional and extraordinary expenditure in the payments up to 31st December.

Mr. SWINARTON—How do you divide the election expenses?

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that whenever the same officer performed the same duty at the same time at the elections for both Parliaments, only one charge was allowed. By the application of that principle, the accounts were cut down from \$40,000 to \$26,000—the \$26,000, however, in the opinion of the Government being far more than should have been paid, if there had been a proper election law on the statute book. The Government, he might remark, intended going into a strict account with the Dominion Government, with reference to this item, and the expenditure generally contained in statement No. 5. They had been unable to do this hitherto, from the circumstances in which they had been placed, having no buildings ready for Government offices until November, no records to fall back upon, and no one in the offices here acquainted with the old official routine. Coming now to the estimates for the current year, he would say that they were in one sense an experiment, and, except as regarded salaries and payments fixed by statute, were made in nearly all instances larger than than the Government thought would be sufficient for the service. The house would, of course, readily understand that for every expenditure the Government would have to account, and, if necessary, the vouchers and all papers connected with it, would be open to inspection. In the Supply Bill, a clause would be introduced that any unexpended balance of an estimate would fall back into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and would have to be voted again before it could be touched. The Government, he might also mention, had adopted a standing rule, that no payments should be made without an Order in Council; the existence of a statute authorizing an appropriation, would not be considered as warranting the actual payments without the members of the Government having an opportunity of understanding why and how it was made. The first item in the estimate, "Lieutenant Governor's office"—was put down at a low figure; he would like hon. gentlemen to look at the charge for the Governor-General's office in the Public Accounts of 1866, and mark the difference. Perhaps he should not refer here to the corresponding payments in the Province of Quebec; he would only say that the salaries—\$800 for Private Secretary, and \$400 for messenger—were not certainly unreasonable. Mr. Wood then referred to the estimates for the Executive Council, and the offices of the Attorney-General, Treasurer, Registrar, and the Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works, as being equally reasonable, and as showing that those offices had been organized with a due regard to economy. He also remarked, in this connection, on the plan adopted by the Government of making the fiscal year end with the 31st December. It was supposed the Legislature would ordinarily meet in the autumn, about the month of November, and the estimates for the ensuing year would then be submitted, so that the Government would have no excuse for expending money without the previous sanction of Parliament. He thought it had been found that changing the end of the fiscal year in Canada to 30th June had not worked well. As regarded the estimates for the Crown Lands Department, they would be explained by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, when that portion of the estimates was reached. The sum asked for seemed large, and some might be of opinion that it ought to be less. The staff of officers was large—unnecessarily so, he believed. There was an item of \$25,000 for contingencies of the Departments not otherwise provided for, including printing, stationery, advertising, &c., &c. \$8,000 was put down for contingencies in the Crown Lands Department, which might as well, perhaps, have gone with the \$25,000. The Government had employed a gentleman named Hartney, son of Mr. Hartney, who had charge of these matters at Ottawa, to take charge of the stationery and printing. No subordinate or deputy head was to incur any expense without a requisition signed by