

one item remained, on which he had not touched—"To meet unforeseen and unprovided expenses, \$20,000" Occasions would, of course, arise for such expenditure. For instance, there would be expenditure connected with the arbitration between the two Provinces, for which at this stage it would be impossible to make distinct provision. He begged to move that the Speaker do now leave the chair.

In reply to Mr. SWINARTON,

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that, by a technical construction of the Confederation Act, the law fees received from suitors for the expenses of the Courts in Ontario, would appear to go to the Dominion Government. It was considered by many, however, that the Province was entitled to those fees.

Mr. BLAKE said he had intended to advert to the point just raised by the member for Cardwell. As the Province had got control of the civil procedure of its Courts, it appeared to him that it would be exceedingly inconvenient, whatever might be the technical construction of the Confederation Act, that the Dominion should receive any of the funds which were derived from the suitors in Ontario. He had no doubt that it was in the power of the House to abolish the fees now paid, and to substitute others which should go into the Provincial Treasury, towards the expenses of the Administration of Justice, and he hoped there would be legislation to that effect. After the Act was passed, New Brunswick created County Judges in order to take advantage of their payment by the Dominion, without, of course, creating any corresponding fund, and it was ridiculous to suppose that the fees in Ontario alone should go to the Dominion. He thought the House had reason to congratulate itself on having received from the Treasurer so fair and candid an exposition of the state of our finances. He would not, however, follow the Treasurer in his statement as to the special funds. It appeared to him that that statement was useless, unless the Treasurer was prepared also to show, in some measure, what share of the debt would fall on Ontario. One of these funds, the Upper Canada Building Fund, was in the Confederation Act expressly included among the assets said to be the property of the two Provinces jointly. He did not think the capitalisation of these funds at six per cent. was a just method of reckoning our assets, when we knew that all that could happen was that they should be set against our debt, on which we were to pay interest at 5 per cent. The Treasurer of Quebec had estimated the annual charge on its share of the debt at \$200,000, which represents a capital of some \$4,000,000. He would have been glad if the Treasurer of Ontario had followed this example, and stated his views on the subject, so that we might have had some approximate idea of what was our true financial position, which, after credit was taken for the capitalisation of the special funds, and for a large revenue from public lands, certainly seemed to be exceedingly prosperous. He did not wish to throw cold water on this prospect, although it evidently depended very much on what our debt might be declared to be, and the correctness of the Treasurer's views as to the special funds. As to the anticipated revenue of the Crown Lands Department, it was not stated how much would be derived from timber, and how much from lands. It was stated that six and a half million dollars was the amount of arrears due on lands disposed of; but the Commissioner had said it was quite impossible that anything like that amount could be realized. We had also been told that the value of the lands unsold was insignificant. It was obvious then that the revenue to be derived from our public lands could not be looked upon as permanent. We ought therefore to husband that income, having a regard to the large indebtedness which we would have to bear. He regretted to hear the official *Gazette* spoken of as a source of revenue. That publication was made use of by the Government for official announcements, proclamations, &c, and it was not right that private advertisers, in addition to the cost of their own advertisements, should bear that expense and something over, so as to make the *Gazette* a source of revenue to the Government. The true principle was that these persons should bear the cost of their own advertisements and no more. Mr. Blake then referred to the item of \$400 for the salary of the Law Clerk, in connection with the resignation of the late incumbent of the office. He said he had been informed by the Attorney General that this sum was an error, being only applicable to one session, and that the intention was to make it \$400 per session. While giving his hon. friend credit for having framed these estimates with a strict regard to economy, he thought he had been too parsimonious in this instance. The duties of the office were exceedingly important—especially in the absence of a second chamber—and should be committed only to a man of great ability and peculiar qualifications, who ought to receive payment in proportion to the importance of the services he rendered. Other remarks on the details of the estimates he would reserve till the house went into Committee.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said that the Gov-