

the estimates he would reserve till the house went into Committee.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD said that the Government appreciated the remarks of the hon. member for South Bruce, and were always happy to hear any suggestions that hon. member had to make. With reference to the Law Clerk, he (the Attorney-General) differed from the remarks of the last speaker. The officer in question was one whose duties only occupied him some two months in the year; and as for the late occupant, Mr. Keale, the sum of \$400 would have been sufficient, supposing there were but one session in the year. But he had left; and he (the Atty.-Gen) could not say he was sorry. It was the intention of the Government to secure a competent person for this office, if possible, before the Estimates were through. In the matter of the *Official Gazette* he took issue with the member for South Bruce. The Government were not disposed to make a speculation out of the matter; but were disposed to see that this printing should be done as economically as might be. The scheme which the Government proposed in regard to the public printing generally, would effect a great saving and would, he was sure, commend itself to the house, when it was brought down. In conclusion, he congratulated the house that, in bringing down the Estimates, no taxation was proposed to be imposed on the country.

The house went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Scott (Ottawa), in the chair.

The item for the Lieut. Governor's office, \$1,200, was carried.

The next item, \$1,615, for the Executive Council office, was also carried.

On the item \$8,550, for the Attorney-General's office,

Mr. BLAKE said that the Attorney-General's salary "as Premier," was put down at \$4,000. Now, clearly, under the Confederation Act, if any one who happened to be Attorney-General received emolument from the Lieut. Governor in some other capacity, that member would not be qualified to sit in that house. He merely called the attention of the Government to this discrepancy.

Hon. Mr. WOOD explained that there had been some difference of opinion among the members of the Government on the point—that the Attorney-General wanted no distinction in the salaries—but they had resolved on making the distinction. The money would be paid to the hon. gentleman as Attorney-General.

The item passed.

On the next item, \$7,218 29, for the Treasury Department,

Mr. CUMBERLAND asked the Government if a Board of Audit was to be established.

Hon. J. S. McDONALD, in reply, stated that at an early period next session he would apply for the appointment of a public accounts committee, who would act as a board of audit in conjunction with one of the officers of the house.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that a system of audit was now in operation in the department.

Mr. BLAKE thought an independent audit would be best, but was quite willing to allow the Government to try their scheme with the committee on public accounts to the end of the year. Before sitting down, he desired to contrast the conduct of the Government in calling into existence this public accounts committee with their determined stand in the early part of the session against it. Then it was decried as useless; now it was found to be a very useful committee. He (Mr. Blake) was glad to learn that this committee was to be struck again. With regard to the public accounts, it struck him that what they had to accomplish in regard to the public accounts was, as nearly as possible to get a year's statement—to get it audited by the committee as soon as possible and published—and these ends, it appeared to him, would have been best promoted by the public accounts being made to run as before, from July to July, and not, as proposed, to make these accounts terminate with the natural year. However, he merely threw out this as a suggestion.

Mr. CUMBERLAND expressed his satisfaction with the announcement of the Government that there was to be an audit of the Public Accounts.

The item passed, and it being 6 o'clock, the House rose.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS rose to explain the estimate for the Secretary and Treasurers' office and Department of Agriculture and Public Works. Carried without discussion. On the Crown Lands Department expenses, Hon Mr Richards explained that clerks had been sent from Ottawa, but he was not prepared to accept them as a permanent staff. Government was at liberty to dismiss them when their services were not needed. Already some four had been discharged. In regard to the items attached to Woods and Forests although they seemed large, yet the large amount of arrears to be collected justified the amount asked. The Government has not yet decided whom they will employ, and the sum voted must not be considered as permanent, and if the Govern-