

THE TREASURER AND MR. LANGTON

Hon. Mr. WOOD said the Committee would recollect, in speaking of the sum paid to the Hon. Mr. Simpson, that some discussion was had in reference to the matter. His remarks, uttered in a jocular way, and taking them in an isolated manner and alone, might be construed into censoriousness in respect to Mr. Langton. He made a remark or two called forth by a playful question interjected by one of the Committee, but apart from the subject altogether. Of course, Mr. Langton, seeing this reported, and without what preceded and followed, would very reasonably feel aggrieved. He (Hon. Mr. Wood) had no intention to make any remarks unfavourable to Mr. Langton. The reason why he now referred to the subject was, that his attention had been called to the matter as reported in THE GLOBE, and it had been suggested that it might be misunderstood. He had no objection to people speaking of himself, but he did regret that an isolated remark, spoken and well understood to be in jest, should appear to reflect on another person in no way connected with the matter, and find its way into the press. He wished to have it understood by the public and by Mr. Langton, that if anything had been said about Mr. Langton—in fact, if that gentleman had been present, he would have seen that there was nothing said or intended in the way of animadversion. He (Hon. Mr. Wood) would further wish to state that he never desired to convey the impression that Mr. Simpson came here clothed with authority from the Dominion Government to settle any financial question. He (Mr. Wood) had stated distinctly that Mr. Simpson had no such authority; but had stated that Mr. Simpson had come up here to help him to adjust the accounts and put financial matters in shape for the session of 1867-8. He would take this occasion to state that he had the very highest opinion of the ability, impartiality and integrity of Mr. Langton. In his (Hon. Mr. Wood's) business intercourse with him, he had invariably found Mr. Langton impartial, although in many things he had differed from that gentleman. He (Hon. Mr. Wood) had no complaint to make against the reporter, as it was not to be expected a newspaper could afford space for trivial conversations.

The CHAIRMAN read from the minutes to confirm the statement of the Treasurer, to the effect that Mr. Simpson had not come here clothed with authority to adjust any disputed items.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES TO AN OFFICIAL.

Mr. BLAKE asked for explanations concerning the item of \$100 (Public Accounts of 1868) for expenses of "J. J. Vance visiting United States Courts, re timber regulations." He said that this was a worse case than that of Mr. Simpson; it was worse because Mr. Vance was an officer of the House. He did not think that Mr. Vance, or any officer of the House, should receive extra remuneration for services rendered the Government.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said the officer was on Government business at the time. The money paid was for travelling expenses.

Mr. BLAKE said he was aware that the official was connected with the House, and that, in case of the House officials, the Speaker appointed them and the Government fixed the salary. Still this sum seemed to be in addition to the salary.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that if the Government wanted an officer to serve them at Chicago, for instance, they had a right to pay his expenses. It was true what Mr. Blake said, that the Speaker appoints the officers of the House, but the Government paid the salaries.

G. McMICKEN'S SERVICES.

Mr. BLAKE asked for information as to the item of \$400 to G. McMicken (Public Accounts, 1868), "for advance on account of expenses re Belle River arson and murder case, and Seaforth murder case."

Hon. Mr. WOOD said he would have the matter looked into.

Mr. BEATTY inquired how it was that Mr. McMicken was an officer of the Dominion, and yet was paid by Ontario, which had the administration of criminal justice.

Mr. BLAKE replied that Mr. McMicken was in the employment of the Dominion Government, ostensibly employed on the Frontier police.

A HANDSOME MIRROR.

Mr. BLAKE asked for information concerning an item of \$34, in the Public Accounts of 1868, paid to R. W. Laird, "for a mirror and frame." He would like to know for whom this handsome mirror was ordered.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said he supposed it was for the Government building.

The CHAIRMAN said he would like to know on what principle this payment was made. He was endeavouring to reach some system of classification by which it could be shown at a glance for what purpose every item was incurred.

SALARY OF KIVAS TULLY.

Mr. BLAKE asked for explanations concerning the item of \$1,300, (Public Accounts of 1868) thirteen months' salary to Kivas Tully, Architect, to the 31st December, 1868.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that before this Government was established, Mr. Tully had received a salary from the Dominion Government, for superintending the construction of the wings and the general construction of the Lunatic Asylum. He (Hon. Mr. Wood) had determined that the maintenance of the Asylum should be charged with so much of Mr. Tully's services.

In reply to Mr. BEATTY,

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that Mr. Tully devoted all his services to the Government.

OSGOODE HALL.

Hon. Mr. McMURRICH asked for explanation of the item of \$3,000 (public accounts of 1868) for Hon. J. H. Cameron, for heating and lighting Osgoode Hall.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said the heating and lighting were done by covenant, and it was to the advantage of the Government.

TORONTO FIELD BATTERY.

Item in Public Accounts of 1868: "Major W. N. Alger, expenses providing horses for Toronto Field Battery at the opening of the House, 1867."

Mr. BLAKE said he was entirely opposed to expenses of this kind; they were merely for furs and feathers. We could not call one of these soldiers out. The thing was all sham.

The CHAIRMAN said the accounts were signed by the Brigade-Major and Paymaster, Dominion officers. The military authorities were very particular in these matters.

The Committee adjourned until half-past nine this morning.