

Every man who had had a contract for the Government House had lost money by it.

The item was carried.

Mr. BLAKE asked for explanation of the item \$1,000, clerk's salary, Lieut.-Governor's office. There was no necessity for this appointment, and he wished to know why it had been made a few days before the end of the year 1870, for which there was charged \$45 56 arrears.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said it was necessary that the Lieut.-Governor should have a confidential clerk to conduct his correspondence with the Dominion Government. The other Provinces, without the wealth of Ontario, provided a secretary for the Lieut.-Governors.

Mr. BLAKE—How many despatches does the Lieutenant-Governor receive from the Dominion Government?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—You can get information, perhaps, if you call for returns. Some of the despatches never reach us.

Mr. BLAKE—That is open to question.

The item was passed.

Mr. BLAKE asked if the travelling expenses of the Lieutenant-Governor's private secretary were to be paid in future.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said he was not in favour of such payments, but it was amongst the contingencies of the Lieutenant-Governor's office.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that it was the custom in England to pay such expenses. The Lieutenant-Governor had to attend public ceremonies, and these expenses should be paid. He was not in favour of the cheese-paring policy of the member for South Bruce, and he would tell that gentleman that he (the Attorney-General) would cheerfully pay such expenses in future.

Mr. BLAKE said he was sure the Treasurer must sympathise with him (Mr. Blake) in the attack that had been made on him in reference to this matter, for the Treasurer had just now stated that he did not countenance such expenditures. The Attorney-General had in this case once more changed his mind, for the other day, in the Public Accounts Committee, he stated that he would set his face against these things in future.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—I was wrong then.

Mr. BLAKE—You acknowledge it?

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—I acknowledge I was wrong.

Mr. BLAKE said that, as the Attorney-General was obliged to eat up his words, he should be careful in attacking those who held the same opinions as he himself held a few days ago.

Hon. Mr. WOOD said that the travelling expenses of the Governor's private secretary last year amounted in all to about \$52.

The item was passed.

Item of \$1,715 for Executive Council office, was passed without discussion.

Item of \$8,424 65 for Attorney-General's office,

Mr. BOYD asked for information concerning the increase of \$285 in the expenses of this office—the increase being in the salary of Chief Clerk, set down at \$1,600, arrears adding \$74 65.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said he found it impossible to carry on the political part of the business of his office without the assistance of this clerk, who was a most deserving official. He (Attorney-General) managed his office with the utmost economy.

Mr. BLAKE inquired if this gentleman was engaged in his profession outside the office.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that some malicious person had been making inquiry of late, whether he had been receiving any benefit from the Crown business of his office—if he had been putting his hand into the chest containing the money that arose from Crown cases. He defied the member for South Bruce to say that he had ever put any of the public money into his pocket. He had only two clerks for his office, and these gentlemen had also to act as clerks for the Executive Council. The Attorney-General of the Province of Quebec had six times as many clerks.

Mr. BLAKE said that he had sat before the Attorney-General for four years, and when he made a charge he had always done so in plain language.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD—What do you mean?

Mr. BLAKE—My question had reference

to increase of salary, and to ascertain if there were any need to increase it, if it were the fact that one of the clerks might be doing business outside the office.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD said that Mr. Scott had dissolved partnership with Mr. Mackenzie before entering his (Attorney-General's) office. And if that gentleman, so long as he performed his office business faithfully, did any little business outside the office, he (Attorney-General) would not interfere to prevent him.

Mr. BLAKE—I did not wish to say anything about the matter concerning which the Atty.-Gen. has grown warm. But now I will say that I have heard stories about this Crown business floating about town. I know who is spreading it, and the Attorney-General also knows. I have heard the story from many people, but I told the person who communicated it to me that it was utterly incredible; that I thought the Attorney-General would not do it, and if he did so he would not be foolish enough to let it be known.

The item was passed.

The following items were also passed after explanations:

Item \$11,561, Treasury department.

Item \$19,691 67, Secretary and Registrar's office.

Item \$13 661 67, Department of Agriculture and Public Works.

Item \$40,005, Crown Lands Department. Also, item \$20,580, miscellaneous, same department.

The committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again on Friday.

#### RETURN.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON presented a return to an address asking for information concerning the University of Toronto.

On motion of the hon. Mr. CAMERON, the House rose at 25 minutes to 12