

work without the authority of the Legislature having been first obtained.

Mr. CREIGHTON protested against the increased expenditure in the Public Works Department, especially in view of a diminished outlay on public works. He thought there had been no argument made out for increased expenditure.

Mr. CURRIE said hon. gentlemen opposite were in the habit of referring to the economical administration of public affairs by the late Mr. Sandfield Macdonald, but that hon. gentleman had lived and died a Reformer; and the only time he had ever departed from the true principles of the Reform party was when he had joined in a coalition with the Conservative party. He went on to show the manner in which the rank and file of the Conservative party had treated that statesman, contending that the only time they had ever really supported him was when they were expecting to get favours from him.

Mr. BOULTER read from the past speeches of the hon. member for Welland to show that he had formerly stated that Sandfield Macdonald had received more support from Conservatives than from the Clear Grits.

Mr. CAMERON said that the Sandfield Macdonald Government had been able to carry out the great public works at a less expenditure than the Government were now able to carry on the trifling works they proposed to complete.

Mr. BETHUNE called attention to the vote for the salary of the accountant and law clerk, and hoped, if possible, that his services might be dispensed with.

Mr. FRASER contended that the services of such an officer were required.

Mr. CAMERON said his experience was that such an officer was necessary, as it was not always convenient to consult the Attorney-General's Department.

Mr. CROOKS showed that the difference between the estimates for 1871 and those for 1876 was under \$20,000, and pointed out that comparisons made by hon. gentlemen opposite were unfair, in not taking into account the difference in the mode of charging the entries. The gentlemen who were now acting as clerks in the various Departments had been nearly all appointed to office by hon. gentlemen opposite, and they had been promised increases of salaries when the Sandfield Macdonald Government was to come back strong from the elections of 1871. The great evils of the present Civil Service systems, in Ottawa and in Washington, had originated in political importunity of the friends of the Governments then in power. The present Government had increased very few salaries, and not a single one for political objects. Nearly all the clerks in every Department of the Government were in sympathy with hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. CAMERON said he had never objected to raising the salaries of those who deserved them, but what he complained of was that the present Government appointed officers who were really not required. He referred to the dismissal and re-installment of one of the clerks, a Mr. Taylor.

Mr. CROOKS said that the charges which had long ago been made in reference to Mr. Taylor had been shown to be false after a full investigation.

Mr. ROSS asked if some of the clerks or draughtsmen could not be dispensed with in the Department.

Mr. FRASER said that in his opinion the public service could not be efficiently performed without the present number of clerks. These draughtsmen performed a variety of duties besides making draughts in the Department.

Mr. CAMERON contended that there had been an unwarranted increase in the expenses of the Department since 1871.

Mr. FRASER pointed out that in 1871 the officers now appearing under the head of the Department were charged against the special works on which they were engaged. The real increase between 1871 and 1876 was only about \$1,000.

Mr. CROOKS gave the details to show the correctness of the statement of the Commissioner of Public Works.

Mr. LAUDER said in that case the increase in the cost of civil government must be in some other Department, because there had been a large increase.

Mr. PAXTON was glad that the member

for East Grey was satisfied that there was nothing wrong with the expenditure in this Department.

Mr. CURRIE said this increase in expenditure had been going on ever since Confederation, and not only since this Government had been in power. If the Government had been extravagant why had hon. gentlemen opposite not attempted to check the extravagance?

Mr. BETHUNE pointed out that salaries had increased not only in the Government offices but in other occupations. He was in favour of a reduction of the number of clerks in the Civil Service, and the payment of better salaries.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said there were no public works now to call for the employment of so large a staff. The Government ought to show that the expenditure proposed was necessary.

Mr. SINCLAIR pointed out that the buildings erected by Mr. Sandfield Macdonald had not been completed, but had been a continual source of trouble to the present Government. The late Government had not erected on good building except the Lieutenant-Governor's residence in Toronto. He thought the staff should not be increased, as it was more difficult to decrease than to increase a staff.

Mr. CAMERON again compared the expenditure between this year and 1871. He understood the utterances of the member for Welland this session, to be in anticipation of the creation of a sixth portfolio in the Government. The increase of salaries to public officers would not make the country much poorer, and the leak was in public works outside of the expenditure on civil government. He corrected some of the remarks of the member for South Simcoe.

After some remarks by Mr. Cole,

Mr. HAY expressed his satisfaction with the explanations of the Government. He thought that exception could not be taken to trifling increases in the salaries of public officials when hon. members had increased their own allowances.

Mr. SINCLAIR said he was prepared to admit that there was a larger expenditure under the present Government than formerly, but good results had been obtained, the different Departments having been conducted efficiently.

The item was passed.

The following items also passed:—

Department of Agriculture.....	\$1,100
Public Institutions.....	5,700
Miscellaneous.....	13,100

The Committee rose and reported.

The House adjourned at 12 o'clock.

#### NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

Mr. McMahon—On Thursday—Bill to amend the Act respecting Municipal Institutions in Ontario.

Hon. Attorney-General Mowat—On Thursday next—Bill to make further provision respecting Permanent Building Societies.

Mr. Paxton—On Thursday next—Address for a return showing the amount paid to each Returning-officer and his deputies for their services at the last general and any subsequent elections.