

a time of great hardship in obedience to a clap-trap cry raised by the Opposition. In regard to the allegations of the member for South Simcoe with respect to the re-valuation of the Crown lands, he held that the people were satisfied of the justice of the act, and that the Government had acted justly and honestly. The member for Simcoe had charged, not only the Commissioner of Crown Lands, but also hon. members with having combined with other parties to rob the country by participating in dishonest and improper profits made out of the purchases of lands. That hon. member, it was supposed, had entered the House for the purpose of improving its tone; but he would not accomplish that end by making wholesale charges of scoundrelism against its members. If that hon. member referred to him (Mr. Sinclair) in that connection, he denounced the statement as a libel, untrue in every particular. Did the hon. member refer to the member for East Grey, who with him (Mr. Sinclair) had pressed the question of revaluing the lands on the Government? No such charge had been heard of before to-day. It ill became a gentleman who held his present position by the sufferance of the House and the generosity of the Reform Government, which had introduced a Bill to remove difficulties in regard to his holding a seat, to bring wholesale charges against hon. members of having been guilty of improper practice with persons outside of the House. (Cheers.)

Mr. PAXTON said during the whole time he had had a seat in that House he did not remember of another instance in which an hon. member had moved a resolution without saying something in support of it. He characterized the first amendment as a buncombe resolution, only offered for the purpose of making political capital, and that at the expense of poorly paid officials, who were not in a position to defend themselves. Comparisons had been made between the management of the Crown Lands Department under the present and during the past Government, but the country had been put to an enormous amount of expense by having to run again and again to the Department in order to get their business done. At present it was entirely different, for the work was done promptly. The two amendments had, he believed, been written by one and the same hon. member and placed into the hands of the hon. gentleman who had moved them. He had expected a less amount of such buncombe from the Opposition when the hon. member for South Simcoe joined their ranks, but he was sorry to see that there was no improvement.

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex) contended that no one had been reading an attack upon the salaries of civil service employees, as seemed to be imagined by the hon. member, for North Bruce and North Ontario. There were other methods in which economy might be exercised than in reducing these salaries.

The House then divided on the amendment to the amendment, which was lost. Yeas, 27; nays, 43.

YEAS—Messrs. Baker, Parr, Boulter, Broder, Brown, Conitts, Creighton, Deacon, Fisher, Harkin, Lauder, Long, McDougall (Middlesex), Macdougall (Simcoe), McGowan, McRae, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Patterson (Essex), Preston, Richardson, Rosevear, Scott, Tooley, Wigle, Willis—27.

NAYS—Messrs. Appleby, Ballantyne, Baxter, Bishop, Bonfield, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Cole, Crooks, Deroche, Finlayson, Fleming, Fraser, Gibson, Gow, Graham (Lambton), Grant, Hauey, Harriott, Hay, Hodgins, Hunter, Keau, Lane, Lyon, MacMillan, Mostyn, Mowat, O'Donoghue, Pardee, Patterson (York), Paxton, Robinson, Ross, Sexton, Sinclair, Springer, Striker, Waterworth, Widdifield, Williams, Wilson, Wood—43.

Mr. DEROCHE then moved the following amendment to Mr. Richardson's amendment:—

"That all the words after 'that' in said amendment be struck out, and the following be inserted instead:—

"The following words be added to the resolution, 'And while concurring in the said resolutions, this House desires to express its confidence that it has not been called upon to sanction expenditure for the service of 1876 more than is necessary for the economical and efficient management of the said Department, and that every effort has been made, and will continue to be made, to prevent unnecessary expenditure.'"

RETURNS.

Mr. Wood presented the report of the School of Agriculture and Experimental Farm.

Also, return of correspondence with the Dominion Government as to disallowance of

Acts of Ontario Legislature.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the chair.

After recess,

Mr. DEROCHE said the objections made to-night were only reiterations of what had been said many times before on the same subject. The re-valuation of the lands which had caused a temporary increase in the expenses of the Crown Lands Department, had been inaugurated by Mr. Sandfield Macdonald. He (Mr. Deroche) was of opinion that the re-valuation of these lands had been a most beneficial measure, one of very great advantage to a very large number of poor people throughout this country. (Hear, hear.) He knew that in the township of Sheffield, in his county, many poor people had held lands on which the interest had accumulated until it was greater than the principal, and to such extent that they would never have been able to pay for their property but for the relief which this measure afforded them. Some hon. members had tried to disguise any desire to lower the salaries of the Civil Service employees, but the House knew that on every hustings from Essex to Russell this had been one of the staple cries of the Opposition—that the Government were paying too much to their officials. He believed in paying fair salaries to public servants. It was in countries where the employees were poorly paid that corruption prevailed. He testified to the ability and courtesy of those who held positions in this Department. The people of Ontario had too much pride to desire to underpay their servants.

Mr. PATTERSON (Essex) said the question of the salaries paid to Government employees had not affected the result of the elections in Essex. He considered the amount asked for contingencies was too much.

Mr. DEACON said he did not believe that any one objected to the re-valuation of poor lands, but what was objected to was the valuation of the whole of the unpaid lands of the Province, and to the reduction which was said to have been made below the valuation of the Government valuers. The Opposition were as much in favour of paying the officials well as the Government were, but any unnecessary officials should be dispensed with. They thought the Commissioner ought to turn his attention to decreasing the expenditure in the Department.

Mr. PARDEE said the item under discussion was the salaries of the Department, and therefore the hon. gentleman must, if he objected to it, either desire the reduction of the salaries or the dismissal of some of the officials. (Hear, hear.) The hon. gentleman wished him to turn his attention to a reduction in the expense of the Department. Well, in 1871, the last year of the Sandfield Macdonald Government, there were six extra clerks in the Department, besides the permanent staff, which was within two of what it was now. (Hear, hear.) From the commencement of 1874 to the end of 1875 he would have dispensed with no less than ten or twelve extra clerks. (Cheers.) Was not that turning his attention towards a reduction in the expenses? The member for East Grey had challenged his statement that the receipts from Crown Lands for 1874 amounted to \$717,248, but he called his attention to the Public Accounts for that year, and showed that the amount was exactly what he had stated. It was the same with regard to the years previous to 1874, and with regard to 1875 he had had a statement made up by the accountant in the Treasurer's Department, showing the receipts for the year up to the 16th of December to amount to \$626,784. No Commissioner and no member could afford to stand up in the House and make such a statement unless it was true. The hon. gentleman said it could not be made up from the statement of receipts and expenditure for the nine months, but the reason for that was that the accountant in the Treasurer's branch only took account of what had been actually transferred to him by the accountant of the Crown Lands Department, while there was at the same time a large amount lying to the credit of the Crown lands. A return had been brought down showing a larger amount than that contained in the Treasurer's statement, and his (Mr. Pardee's) statement had been made up to a later date still. With reference to the statement of the member for South Simcoe as to the cost of Crown lands in 1862, he had had a statement made up which showed the expenditure in that year to be \$170,605. (Cheers.) He had himself specially gone over the accounts and had excluded everything that did not properly and legitimately belong to the collections of the Crown Lands Department, on the same basis as that on which he had