

disclaimed his previous remarks being construed so as to make him say that this was a new thing. It was not; the law existed when he was in office at Ottawa. He worked under it. What he did object to was that there should be an invitation in the statute book to each of the six honourable gentlemen opposite to have a private secretary. He was inclined to think that each gentleman would have his private secretary, \$24,000 would be spent in the coming term for these gentlemen having full facilities for the conduct of their private political correspondence. He then detailed the arrangements found efficient when "the corruptionists" were in power, saying that the business then was as heavy as now. Honourable gentlemen should give up a greater portion of their own private engagements so as to overtake the duties of their office.

The CHAIRMAN asked honourable gentlemen to confine their remarks as nearly as possible to the amendment.

Mr. BETHUNE said that there was no intention to make any new appointments. Since Confederation each Minister had had some one whose position was analogous to that of a private secretary. No Minister could overtake his correspondence effectually without the use of short-hand writers, whose services save much valuable time. At Ottawa each Minister has had a private secretary; the public have been the gainers in getting prompt replies. Surely what is right for the Dominion is right for the Province.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe)—There is no comparison between a Government having seven or eight Provinces and our little Province.

Mr. BETHUNE—In one sense our duties are as important and extensive as theirs.

Mr. MEREDITH—We do not deal with State questions.

Mr. BETHUNE—We deal with questions of vast importance, and it is an open question if our legislation on many questions does not inspire the legislation of the Dominion. The time saved will be great, and the country will be the gainers. No man in this Chamber could overtake the correspondence of any of the Departments in one day.

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Simcoe)—The Minister has got his Deputy.

Mr. BETHUNE—The Deputy has his own very important duties. But it is not the intention of this Bill to create one single office more. Would his honourable friends opposite say that the time will never come when a private secretary for each of the six Ministers will be necessary? It was desirable that a man who knows the secrets of a Minister should not go over to his successor. He did not know one single person who would save the country more money than one of the parties whose business had been the subject of discussion. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. HARDY said that since 1871 the work of his Department had nearly doubled.

Mr. PARDEE said there was a general impression abroad that each of the heads of the Departments were provided with Private Secretaries, whereas there was only the one in the Attorney-General's Department. In the Crown Lands Department they happened to be a clerk who was a shorthand writer, and who assisted in the correspondence. The same was also the case in the other Departments. Every Attorney-General had his Secretary, and Mr. Sandfield Macdonald had one. It made no difference as to the name by which these officers were called, and if the changing of the name was all that was required by hon. gentlemen opposite, that could easily be done.

Mr. MEREDITH proposed to add to the resolution that the intention was that not more than one private secretary should be employed.

Mr. PARDEE explained that he would have an opportunity of presenting that amendment when the proper time arrived.

Mr. SCOTT said it should be conceded at once that the object of the resolution was to increase the public expenditure by just so much as would be involved in the employment of a shorthand writer in each of

the Departments. (Government members—'No, no.') If such was not the intention there could be no possible objection to allowing the amendment proposed by the hon. member for London.

Mr. CURRIE said he could not see that any new expenditure was about to be imposed upon the country. He referred to the fact that the hon. member for South Simcoe was watching the Treasury very eagerly.

Mr. MACDOUGALL—I always have watched it.

Mr. CURRIE said that the hon. gentleman had been watching earnestly and with gazing eyes for some time, and he had no doubt he would do so for some time to come. He found that in 1871 the hon. gentleman had received between \$11,000 and \$12,000.

Mr. MACDOUGALL—What for?

Mr. CURRIE replied that it was for his trip up North-west. He also found that the hon. gentleman could not find furniture good enough for him in the west, but he had ordered \$3,000 worth from here. He also found, by the way, that the hon. gentleman had a private secretary with him. (Laughter.) He also found that he had taken pistols and cartridges with him, for which he found an item of \$7 98 in the public accounts. He also found that the hon. gentleman had taken with him a fine span of horses, so that he had watched the Treasury then very successfully. He hoped he would keep on watching. (Laughter and cheers from Government benches.)

Mr. MACDOUGALL said he had received the money referred to as an officer of the Government, and not for his own personal use. The pistols were purchased to defend the flag which he attempted to carry into the North-west, and the furniture was for the Government House. He complained that he had been several times unjustly attacked in regard to his trip to the North-west, of which he said he had reason to complain. He accused Mr. Currie of having done all that he could to prevent the acquisition of the North-west Territory by resigning his seat as a Legislative Councillor when the scheme of Confederation was being brought about. He had not done anything wrong, but if he had it should be a warning to the present Government instead of a justification. He was not afraid of investigation. (Opposition cheers.)

Mr. CURRIE said he felt it his duty to explain that he had desired as much as any hon. gentleman could desire to see the consummation of the Confederation of the Provinces, but he had felt that the subject was too important a one to be decided without having been first submitted to the people of the country, in consequence of which he had resigned his seat as a Legislative Councillor. (Government cheers.) He proceeded to say that in the year 1863, when moving the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, he had expressed a wish that many within the sound of his voice would live to see the Provinces united from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He had been opposed to the principle of a life Senate, and feeling the importance of the Confederation scheme he had resigned his seat rather than have the scheme carried out without being submitted to the voice of the people. At all events in speaking of public affairs it could not be said of him, as it had been said of the hon. gentleman, that he had never been elected for the same constituency more than once. He himself had been consistent in his party adherence, and hoped he ever should be so long as they continued to carry out a policy which he believed was a proper one. (Government cheers.)

Mr. DAWSON thought the attack on the hon. member for South Simcoe was rather uncalled for, as he had never known him to do anything of which he should be ashamed.

Mr. FRASER said that the hon. gentleman from South Simcoe had made a general attack upon the Government and party of which he (Mr. Fraser) was a member. He had also written and had printed pamphlets on his return from the North-west which were very much calculated to misrepresent facts. He said that the hon. gentleman was always competent, when a party question