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SUPPLY.

The House again went into Committee of Supply.

Mr. MORRIS, referring to the speech of the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, said that that gentleman was apparently the prophet of the Ministry. He had said that he believed the people of the country would not be deceived by humbug, and would again return the Government to power. He (Mr. Morris) believed that the voice of the people would be found against the Government, and that undoubtedly they would not be deceived by humbug. He then proceeded to discuss his election in East Toronto, and spoke generally against the election policy of the Reform party. He denied that he had given authority to the statement made during that election that he would buy a dwelling-house and take up his residence in the city.

After further discussion the item was passed, as was also \$16,000 for the Treasurer's Office.

On the item \$25,975 for Secretary and Registrar's Office,

Mr. SCOTT asked if the Act regarding the Civil Service which had been passed last session, had yet been put into force.

Mr. HARDY said that the law had only been in force about a month. The classification of clerks had not yet been completed.

The item was passed, as were the following items:—\$19,672 for public works, and \$1,200 for agriculture.

On the item \$1,400 for immigration,

Mr. MEREDITH said that the services of the secretary under this head might be dispensed with, now that the amount for immigration had been very much reduced.

Mr. WOOD said that the officer was a necessary one, and could not be well done without, as there was still considerable work to be done by him.

Mr. MEREDITH said that the policy of the Government appeared to be that if the whole expenditure on capital account were done away with the expenditure in the Departments would remain the same.

Mr. FRASER said that such was not the case, as though the expenditure on capital account might be small, the work in the Departments might still be maintained at the same volume.

Mr. HAY was in favour of retaining the services of Mr. Spence, the secretary referred to. He believed, in view of the desire at the present time of the tenant farmer and other classes to emigrate, that it would be desirable to have fuller information distributed in the Old Country as to the advantages possessed by the various portions of the Province. That information might be obtained and distributed through the agency of Mr. Spence without entailing any increased expense.

The item was passed, as was also that of \$50,780 for public institutions, Mr. Meredith on the latter item declaring his intention to move in the proper place for a reduction in the salary of Mr. Langmuir.

On the item of \$50,780 for Crown Lands Department,

Mr. MEREDITH asked for an explanation of the decrease that had taken place in that item since last year.

Mr. PARDEE said that the decrease was in the contingency fund, and that the remainder of the decrease was caused by the dispensing with the services of one of the clerks.

Mr. MEREDITH said that a sum of \$200 had been paid to Mr. Cowper, an officer of the Woods and Forests branch, for extra services. Hon. gentlemen had when in Opposition contended for the principle that no sums should be paid for extra services to officers in the employ of the Government.

Mr. LAUDER asked for an explanation of the sum of \$100 paid to J. D. Edgar as law costs. There was a law clerk connected with the Crown Lands Department, whose duties, he understood, were to attend to legal business.

Mr. PARDEE said that that gentleman's duties were entirely distinct from the carrying on of suits, for which the expense referred to was incurred. The amount had

been paid as costs in a lawsuit which had been allowed to be entered against the Government.

Mr. MOWAT said that it had always been the practice to employ legal assistance for such suits.

Mr. MEREDITH thought the work might easily be done within the Department. The present system was carried on merely to give employment to legal friends of the Government.

Mr. SCOTT asked if the Commissioner of Crown Lands had taken into consideration the claim of Mr. Hillyard of \$10,000 against the Crown Lands Department.

Mr. PARDEE said that the matter had been under his consideration and that of the hon. Attorney-General, but since the original claim had been made, a Mr. Moray had sent in a petition claiming the money.

Mr. SCOTT asked whether the Government had recognized the claim at all.

Mr. PARDEE said that the claim had not yet been recognized.

The item was then passed.

On the item \$9,960 for miscellaneous,

Mr. MERRICK said that the office of Inspector of Division Courts should be done away with as irregularities when they occurred were rectified by the judges.

Mr. DEROCHE said the Division Court was of more real practical use to the bulk of the people than any other. County Court judges had the patronage of the Courts in their own hands, and the relatives of judges generally occupied the position of clerks and bailiffs. Therefore this officer was absolutely necessary. The Inspector of Registry Offices might perhaps be dispensed with. He was a political friend of gentlemen opposite, and had been appointed to serve party ends.

Mr. SCOTT claimed that the Inspector of Division Courts had really no power, as any Division Court official might refuse to show him the books of the Court. Special provision, however, was made for the inspection of Registry offices, and to prevent mistakes and insure the efficiency of Registrars the Inspector was necessary.

Mr. HAY, as a Division Court clerk of some years' standing, was prepared to confess that the Inspector was necessary. There was an extraordinary difference in the taxation in different Courts, and a regular system should be enforced. The people did not want this officer cut off—they wanted a more thorough inspection, and to do this it was necessary to give him more extended powers. There were greedy bailiffs and greedy clerks who had bled the people pretty freely in the matter of costs, and it was greatly to the interest of the people that the office of Inspector should be continued.

Mr. MEREDITH claimed to have a practical knowledge of this matter, and he believed that the true solution of the difficulty was to have one fee only in each suit. If an inspection were necessary one officer could not perform all the work to be done.

Mr. CURRIE thought if the County Judges would each devote one or two days in the year to inspecting the affairs in the courts in their respective districts the Inspector would not be necessary. In many counties, however, judges would not do this. He believed the Inspector had saved more money to the people ten times over than he received in salary. He would impress upon the Government the view that this session they should clearly define the duties and give statutory powers to the Inspector. He believed that the office of Inspector of Registry Offices might be abolished with advantage to the country.

Mr. GIBSON agreed with the last speaker as to doing away the Inspector of Registry Offices. He thought also the patronage of the County Courts should be taken from the County Judges, and either given to the Government of the day, or that the Attorney-General should have the sanctioning power. If gentlemen opposite, in their desire for economy, would move to do away with the Inspector of Registry Offices they would have his vote.

Mr. FLESHER thought that as the Inspector of Division Courts had no statutory power his continuance was unnecessary.

Mr. FERRIS said the judges had no time to oversee the keeping of accounts and records of their courts. Books of a regular authorized form and a general system of keeping the records