

He informs us that he is obliged as it is to work his staff to an extent that he cannot hope to continue for a long time; he tells us that he wants a small addition to his clerical staff and that he believes such is necessary to the proper administration of the work, and that he is compelled, however regretfully, to appeal from the decision of the Minister, which for his own convenience he would avoid. I would not uphold any other member of the Civil Service, holding office under ordinary tenure, in appealing to Parliament; but I contend that the Auditor General is our servant, is in a special sense a servant of the House, in contradistinction to a servant of the Government of the day. The Auditor General was appointed for that purpose, the Act shows clearly and distinctly this intention, and the fact, to which the hon. gentleman alluded, shows this, for he alone of all the officials is allowed to promote, although not to appoint, showing distinctly the great difference existing between him and any other head of a department. How is it possible that he should discharge the duties properly unless allowed a reasonable staff? And I am bound to say that looking at the amount of work done, looking at the character of the work, it appears to me that there are very few departments indeed in which it is more necessary to have more capable officers or men who will work more freely in the public service than in such a department as this, and if you take away from those officers all hope of promotion and let it be understood that when a man goes into the Audit Department his salary will be smaller and his chance of promotion less than in any other department, or at all events that he will advance much more slowly, most surely you hamper the Auditor General and by degrees will impair the efficiency of his work. I showed from the records of 1891-92 that the rate of increased expenditure in his department is very much less than could have been expected: that whereas in those four years, had the officers received the ordinary \$50 increase, there would have been an addition of \$5,000 to the total instead of only about \$1,200, allowing for the salary of the extra officers. Let us come to consider another matter of which the Auditor General complains, and that is the fact that his allowances have been cut down. It appears to me that this is an extraordinary step for the Minister to take to leave almost every other department in full possession of such clerical assistance as it needs and cut down the Auditor General of all men in the world. As my hon. friend from Bothwell pointed out, the Governor General's Secretary's office receives the same clerical assistance; the Department of Justice is reduced to some small extent, and I must say, with all due deference to the Minister of Justice, that if he requires clerical assistance to the amount of \$2,500, which is put down in the Estimates, \$1,800 is not an excessive sum

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

for the Auditor General to ask. I note that in the Department of Secretary of State, where there does not appear to be an overwhelming amount of work, \$1,600 is allowed for clerical assistance. In the Department of Printing and Stationery, \$2,000 is allowed under this head; in the Department of the Interior there are two distinct allowances made, \$1,800 in one branch and \$1,800 in the Department of Indian Affairs, \$3,600 in all; against \$1,800 asked, but not granted, to the office of the Auditor General. The same remark applies to all the departments, Agriculture alone excepted, I suppose in consequence of all census returns being completed, and all these departments are allowed precisely the same sum for clerical assistance as before. I think it is perfectly proper to ask, why single out the Auditor General's Department out of a dozen departments for a special reduction? Surely it is quite as important that we should know how the public money is spent as we should be informed as to what happens in the Department of Interior or Indian Affairs, or Printing, or even Public Works. It does appear, looking at the two facts to which I have called attention, as if the Auditor General had a strong prima facie case for coming to this House and saying that he was rather unfairly treated in this matter. I have no doubt that the amount of work thrown on the department has increased in a very unusual degree. The very fulness of details, to which the Minister objects as much as to the size of the volume, and the very great particularity with which the various expenditures are given, afford proof enough that the officers of the department do not eat the bread of idleness whatever else they may do. And there is this other point which the Minister would do well to consider. As I have said, there is no single blue-book issued to which the country pays more attention or studies more carefully than the Auditor General's Report. It may not be pleasant always to hon. gentlemen opposite that the people should do so. But the fact is, and if he regards his own popularity and the interests of his own party, I would say to him: Just now on the verge of a general election the worst thing that he could do would be to allow it to appear, that he was anxious to diminish the strictness of the investigation which the Auditor General is making. I add, that in the general public interest, which in this matter undoubtedly ought to govern the House, I think he would be well advised to lay down the rule, that the Auditor General should be interfered with as little as possible. I do not think there is the slightest risk that the Auditor General would ask for any extraordinary or any excessive appropriation. In point of fact the Auditor General is asking for less, or the Minister is giving him less, both in his main Estimates and his Supplementary Estimates. The reduction