

appointment from length of service. If the Civil Service Act was made to apply to them, as it otherwise would, the Auditor-General, having determined to apply it, in these cases, it would work an injustice to those women, who are thoroughly capable of doing the work and who do it well, by turning them out and replacing them by an equal number of other persons. So I think it is only fair, and the House will no doubt readily assent to the proposition, that we should protect them and continue to employ them at the work, as they have performed it for ten or eleven years.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Am I correct in stating that authorization was given for the issue of Dominion notes to the extreme limit, \$20,000,000, which the law permits?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Does the hon. gentleman contemplate asking Parliament for authority to increase that issue?

Mr. FOSTER. That is not altogether determined. At present I do not, but circumstances may arise before this session is over which will make it desirable to apply to Parliament in respect of this matter.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Can the hon. gentleman state what is the actual issue?

Mr. FOSTER. I cannot state exactly, but it is very close on \$20,000,000; but there are certain causes for that, which probably may not last long.

Dominion Notes, Printing. . . . \$45,000

Mr. McMULLEN. I notice the item of \$45,000 for printing Dominion notes. No less than \$49,900 were expended last year, and almost \$5,000 must have been overdrawn.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman will observe that the sum of \$45,000 is for 1892-93, the current year. The year before that is the year when \$49,900 were expended, and that expenditure was under the old contract. It will be remembered that last year a new contract was brought down by which the work will be done for a reduced sum, and although \$49,900 were spent under the old contract, \$45,000 will prove sufficient to do the work under the new one.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Is there any other firm besides the Burland Printing Company that prints bank notes for the Government?

Mr. FOSTER. No; our contract is solely with them.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Is there any other competing firm?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes; there is a firm in Montreal.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Is there any other firm capable of tendering for the work?

Mr. FOSTER. Tenders were called for.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Tenders were formally called for, I suppose?

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. FOSTER. It was not a matter of simply going through the form, but bona fide tenders were put in. There is a company in Montreal that does good work, and it is stated they are capable of doing this work in question.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Did they tender?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Was their tender above or below the tender of this company?

Mr. FOSTER. We went over the whole of this matter last year. Tenders were handed in by two parties, one being the Canada Bank Note Company, of Montreal, and the other the Burland Company. It will be recollected that I explained last year that the former contract was with the Burland Company, and it was one of the conditions of the contract that the firm should come to Ottawa and erect a satisfactory building in which to carry on the work. Under that former contract for five years the firm removed to Ottawa and erected a building on Wellington street, a very excellent building in every respect. When the tenders were received last year and examined, it was found that they were on the whole as nearly equal as they could be, and the Government decided to give the contract to the old firm because of the very large expenditure incurred by them in compliance with the request of the Government in erecting a building here, in order that the work might be more under the supervision of the Government.

Mr. McMULLEN. With respect to the issue of Dominion notes, are they printed and signed, and when ready for use stored in the vaults of the Finance Department?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

Mr. McMULLEN. Are they issued through the several Receivers-General throughout the Dominion, and again issued by them to the banks?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

Mr. McMULLEN. Who finally signs the notes?

Mr. FOSTER. These women, for whom this \$5,000 is asked.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Do they really sign them?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes; for the Finance Minister.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Is a stamp used?

Mr. FOSTER. No; it is a sign manual. They sign their own names.

Mr. McMULLEN. I observe a considerable increase in the item for printing and advertising and like charges.

Mr. FOSTER. There is an increase, because last year's estimate was insufficient.

Committee rose, and, it being Six o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.