

Mr. SPEAKER read the Message, as follows:—

ABERDEEN.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, a Supplementary Estimate of a sum required for the service of the Dominion for the year ending on the 30th June, 1897, to provide for the pay, allowances, transport and general expenses of the Militia Contingent to be sent to England to represent Canada in June, 1897, and in accordance with the provisions of "The British North America Act, 1867," the Governor General recommends this Estimate to the House of Commons.

Government House,
Ottawa, 20th May, 1897.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved that His Excellency's Message, together with the Estimates, be referred to the Committee of Supply. He said: This is a special Message relating to the sum necessary to pay the expenses of the Jubilee contingent. The amount required is \$26,000. I have had a conversation on the matter with the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) and have made the suggestion which, I think, he is willing to concur in, that we should go into Supply for the purpose of passing this exceptional item, and after it has been dealt with, proceed with the regular Orders of the Day.

Motion agreed to, and the House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In Committee.)

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose the acting Minister of Militia will give us a full explanation.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). This is for the purpose of paying for the transport and the pay and allowances expected to be necessary for the 200 men and officers who are to proceed to England to take part in the Jubilee celebration. Our idea is that officers and men should receive the pay of their several ranks; and that, in the case of the men, some additional subsistence allowance will be necessary while they are in England. As nearly as we can calculate, the money will be divided into two parts of nearly equal size. Perhaps about \$11,000 or \$12,000 will be required to pay for the passages from this country to England and back again, and also for transport from the respective homes of the men in Canada to the port of embarkation and from the point of arrival in England to whatever place the military authorities there require the men to report at. The pay of the officers and men will, as I have said, be in proportion to their rank which, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), of course, is aware of. It will amount probably to something like \$13,000 or \$14,000.

Mr. FOSTER. Do I understand that you have here sufficient to cover all expenses?

Mr. FIELDING.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. I hope so. But this is, of course, a matter in which it would not be to the interest of the country that there should be any stinginess; and, if this is not sufficient, I am sure the House will not object to grant us more.

Mr. FOSTER. But this is supposed to be sufficient?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Yes, this is supposed to be sufficient. The contingent will be absent, I suppose, about forty days in all.

Mr. FOSTER. Has the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) made any arrangement for reduced fares?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. The contingent are to go by one of the Dominion steamers, the "Vancouver," about the 5th of June, and return about the 1st of July, by which time, I am informed the Jubilee celebration will be over. They will return by some other steamer of the same line, probably the "Scotsman." We got fairly favourable rates. Of course, there is a great rush to England this summer, and we had to pay, probably, a little more than we should have had to pay at another time.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I desire to make a suggestion to the committee and to the Government. As I understand it, a number of gentlemen prominent in military circles, some of whom have occupied seats in this House and other honourable positions in the country, have been invited to accompany this contingent on their visit to England. I feel—and I believe the great majority of the members of the House and the people of the country will agree with me—that some reasonable allowance should be made towards the payment of expenses of these gentlemen. I do not advocate anything in an extravagant way. But I think that the gentlemen who are to accompany this contingent, it may be with the Premier or in some supernumerary capacity, considering the important positions they occupy and the greatness of the occasion, will go as the representatives of Canada, and I think that the people will be perfectly satisfied that their representatives on this occasion—they will be only few in number—should be allowed some reasonable amount for expenses. It appears to me that without some such allowance, only men of great wealth can accept the invitation. I do not think that that would not meet the approval of this House or of the people of the country. This being a representative delegation, reasonable provision should be made for expenses for the men who have earned the right to an invitation. I simply bring this matter up that it may be taken into consideration by the department, by the Government, and by the House, in the hope that some arrangement can be made to provide as I suggest.