

Macdonald to a Special Committee, asked if there had been any further correspondence on this subject, and if Government were prepared to bring it down.

Sir John A. Macdonald said there had been further correspondence, and he supposed there would be no objection to bringing it down. He would give a positive answer as to this to-morrow. He might state, however, that the British Government had communicated with the Ambassador at Washington, and instructed him not to act in such cases without previous reference to the Governor-General of Canada. (Hear, hear).

Mr. Mackenzie said he had attained the object which he had proposed by this motion. His object was to bring on a short debate, with a view to ensuring that we might not again be placed in the position in which we had been placed by the recent action of the British Ambassador at Washington. As the British Government had taken precisely the same view of the case as our own Government had done, it would not serve any good end to discuss the matter further now.

The motion was then dropped.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SALARY

Mr. Oliver moved for Committee of the Whole for Friday next to consider a resolution declaring it expedient to alter the provision made under 105th Sec. British North American Act, 1867, and to fix the salary of His Excellency, the Governor-General at \$35,000 per annum.

Mr. Dufresne moved, in amendment, to strike out \$35,000 and insert \$30,000.

Mr. Oliver said he had put in the sum of \$35,000 in order to meet the views of gentlemen on both sides of the House.

Mr. Masson (Soulanges) said he would vote for the amendment of the member for Montcalm; but he wished to ask the Government whether it was true that orders had been given to fit up Spencer Wood for His Excellency, and whether we were to furnish and keep two residences for the Governor-General.

Sir John A. Macdonald said the honourable gentleman should have waited for an answer to his question before announcing his intention to vote for the amendment of the member for Montcalm. It was not the present intention of the Government to furnish two

residences for the Governor-General. The Government would make him one good residence.

Mr. Masson—Then what we have read in the public papers is false?

Sir John A. Macdonald said the first he had heard of the statement referred to by the member for Soulanges was his reading it in a newspaper to-day. With respect to this motion by his honourable friend opposite, and the motion in amendment, he must say he regretted exceedingly that this question had been brought up. He thought it would have shown a wise discretion to have left it as affixed in the British North American Act. It would have been more for the credit of Canada to have done so. Formerly, the Sovereign paid the salaries of Colonial Governors out of Crown revenue of the colonies belonging to the sovereign. When these revenues were given up to Canada, it was on condition that the Colony should pay the Governor's salary, and this not by an annual vote, but by a permanent enactment. In 1841, Canada, which had then a much smaller population than now, fixed the salary in accordance with the Union Act at 7,777 pounds currency. Looking at the large increase to her population which had since taken place, and the present and prospective addition of other Provinces to the old Province of Canada, he did not think \$50,000 was too much. It should be remembered that this salary was the only return the people of Canada gave for all that England did for this country. If we took the course now proposed, it would be felt in England that we were not acting fairly, justly, or generously, and that we were not realizing the position in which England had placed us. So long ago as 1851, the then Colonial Secretary, Earl Grey, urged that the salary of 7,000 pounds sterling was not sufficient to afford a temptation to any of those who had taken a leading part in public affairs at home to abandon his position there in order to accept this office. A public man in England sacrificed a great deal when he became a Colonial Governor. He knew that when he returned after five years, he would be in a great measure forgotten, and the avenues to further preferment in a manner closed against him. Lord Elgin came here chiefly because he was not a wealthy man, and the abilities he afterwards displayed had not then been developed. On his return to England, in consequence of his connection with certain public men, he was elevated to a much higher position for which he proved

[Mr. Mackenzie (Lambton).]