

encies mentioned in objection, and he in a rigid economy me felt that it was fidence in its discre- required. The evils o doing, could not of the suma appro- place this year, it easter to prevent a from the Executive explicitly mentioned he thought it but k with the Civil Member who spoke as such as he suppo- as meaning a reward clamour against the he could inform the —These Gentlemen educt any commission invariably paid the into the Provincial een subsequently rene Executive Coun- trouble.

the apology offered t, in behalf of the ad as yet to learn by ad suspend the opere —The excuse of involve the Execu- that of suspending sing individuals to could not for a no- thought the subject

on of the Civil List— the Governors' Salari- the independance Colony could live that and totally above the n to colonies could be the chief command in ch from the want of a h had involved them- and degrading to ght to be entire stran- lous, and to enable eral provision for the Governor in Chief of the Civil Secretary to portance, & must ne- person of more than e ought to be filled y and of talents, and its interests, and st- rements were essen- be charged with the mon justice to give a character and descri- on an honest and up- the salary ought to ouncil and Assembly y of the Lieut. Go- Province, as the instead of that vacilla- the Province a stea- introduced and acted Gaspé was useless to before wished to see it with the individual was in the like man- to the Pension List— compelled to reside in the List altogether as and unjust to expect a sum as £450 Ster- r to it, and in which

probably he had never set his foot.—The Auditor of Patents he considered in the same light.—He saw no necessity for a Clerk to the Inspector General of Accounts.—It was a new and unnecessary charge to the Province and as such he was disposed to re- trench it altogether.—As for the Agent of the Province, he would not suppress his surprise at seeing such a situation on the Civil List, and he had room to suspect that the person in question had certain connections in this Province not so friendly to its interests as could be wished, and which were sufficient to deter the Commons from having any communication with him.—Could even the Commons from the unconstitutional manner in which they supposed he must hold his agency from the Assembly of Lower Canada correspond with him.—The private instructions which from time to time he may receive from persons residing or connected with this Province it is much to be apprehended will be rather calculated to promote the personal advantage of a few individuals than the public good.—Whatever his desire or intentions may be, however well disposed to be useful to the Province, he will often be hoodwinked and deceived.—The situation of French Translator was notoriously a *sinécure*, it formerly might have been useful but at present the utmost that was required from that Officer was occasionally to translate a Proclamation.—He thought this *sinécure* might very properly be abolished, and the Sum of £25 or thereabouts granted by way of contingencies to any person who might be employed to translate Proclamations as occasion might require. He was finally of opinion that the retrenchments which might be made upon the Civil List would be sufficient to enable the House to augment the Salaries of certain Officers who were really entitled to an increase, without augmenting the gross amount of the Sum required for the current year.—[Mr. Speaker here turned towards Mr. Taschereau and asked whether it was not his intention to make these retrenchments as a measure preliminary to an increase of salaries to other officers.—Some explanation followed which we could not hear.—But we observed that Mr. Taschereau shook his head, as if answering in the negative.]

Mr. Borgia—Was of opinion, that the very ample discussion which members seemed disposed to enter upon, would prove fruitless and that after all had been said they would revert to the same point from whence they had started.—The Civil List which was now to be entailed upon the Province was not indeed the Civil List which the Province had asked for in 1810, —it had much accumulated in bulk but such as it was, Members should secure it, for it was certain that a delay of a few more years might again bring it back more weighty than at present: the House should profit by past experience, and to prevent an increase of the Civil List, it should not cavil upon trifles, when possession of such an important object was to be gained.—He had always been of opinion that the Civil List was the property of the Commons of Lower-Canada, and that the sooner they obtained possession of it the more it would tend to the interest of the Province.—He thought it a mere waste of time and talk to discuss the subject in detail with such apparent warmth; when he felt assured that they would terminate the discussion of the Civil List by swallowing it *(en gros)* in lump.

Mr. Stuart—Rose to say, that on a subject so important he thought Members ought not to be precipitate in forming opinions either one way or another,—as for himself he would frankly admit that as yet he had not had sufficient time to examine the Civil List with the attention which he could have wished to bestow upon the subject.—It was a measure of too much importance to hurry through the house, and as the accounts had been sent to the house at a very advanced period of the Session, the Government must only wait with patience until Members could fully acquaint themselves with the subject.—In the event of their committing an error on a subject of such vital consequence to their constituents as a permanent Civil List of several thousands of pounds, it would be no excuse to tell them that the House was short of time, that it was compelled to hurry on business.—This would be no excuse at all.—It would rather be an affront to them.—The House must find time to do the public business, He could not help observing that upon the estimate there appeared an appointment which must excite the amusement of the House.—He meant the Agent for the Province residing in London; by whom or when did this appointment take place? This appointment had surely never taken place with the advice or concurrence of the Commons of Lower-Canada, who had not long ago been told

by very high authority that they were not to have an Agent: how then were they to account for this extraordinary solicitude which appears to have existed some where to provide an Agent for the Commons of this Province without consulting them.—It was to him a marvellous and unaccountable occurrence, that after several years unsuccessful endeavours to obtain the privilege of having an Agent in England, they were at a moment when they least expected it, blest with the consummation of their wishes without any other trouble than that of paying him.—He would not for the present enter into the Civil List as amply as he could wish, but it appeared to him to contain *Items* extremely objectionable.—Among them he remarked the Audit of Accounts composed of Members of the Executive Council, which he said was entirely a new thing, and in his opinion quite unnecessary, as there is already an Inspector General of Accounts, whose duty it is to examine the Public Accounts.—He had never understood that the Gentleman to whom he alluded had been remiss in inspecting the Accounts of the Province; on the contrary, he had heard many reflections upon the rigid punctiliousness with which he scrutinised the Accounts that came before him: if however it were necessary to investigate the public accounts with greater exactness than heretofore, it was the duty of the Executive Council or at least of those Members who were already paid for the purpose to do the duty in question; or if they could not spare time let them transfer the Sum of £900, which they annually received, to pay the Gentlemen composing the *Audit of Accounts*.—He observed on casting his eye over the Civil List, that no Sum was as yet assigned for the payment of the Audit of Accounts.—The sum remained as yet blank, and if the merit of the intended Audit were to be the measure of their recompense, it would he believed for ever remain blank.—He did not see any plausible pretext for the creation of a board of Audit—in fact the House of Assembly was in future to be the Audit of all the public Accounts which without the assistance of the Inspector General of Accounts, would be quite competent to do the business with the assistance of the Council.—He observed two new charges on the list, one of £100 for the Clerk to the Inspector General of Accounts, and another of Assistant Clerk to the Executive Council of £182 10s Sterling.—The first of these charges he thought to say no worse of it was quite unnecessary, but with respect to the latter, he had no hesitation in pronouncing it to be a downright imposition upon the House, as it must have been upon His Excellency the Governor in Chief, who had been induced to consider it, of such importance as to put it into the Estimate.—He hoped Members would take a day or two to think of the Subject.—There were, in his opinion two modes of proceeding in the present instance; one, to appoint a Special Committee to examine the Civil List and report upon it.—This would enable Members to form a correct idea of the propriety of either granting the full amount of the estimate before the house, or of retrenching from it, if the estimate should be found overcharged.—If however the advanced period of the Session was such as to prevent the adoption of this method, he would be of opinion to vote a certain Sum for the payment of the expenses for the present year, appointing at the same time a Committee to look into the appropriations, and report at an early period in the ensuing Session, the result of their enquiries in order that abuses if any such should be found to exist, might be thoroughly corrected, and the Civil List be settled by an Act of the Legislature.

Mr. Taschereau observed that members had wandered from the point at present before the House.—They had not been content with confining themselves to the subject in question, but had entered largely into the discussion of items which from the course he adopted must necessarily come in their turn for discussion at a subsequent stage of his proceeding.—That the Hon. Member who spoke last expressed some dissatisfaction at two new places as mentioned in the civil list viz: Clerk to the Inspector of accounts and assistant Clerk to the Executive.—As to the first however, it would in some sense appear from the arguments of the Hon. Member that he partly approved of it in admitting that the person entrusted with the inspection of the public accounts punctiliously performed