

Act states, a Governor General's warrant may issue, with certain formalities and under certain precautions and safeguards. I want to call the attention of the House to this further fact, that the appropriations given by us for the service of the year 1886 and for the service of the present year, were unusually large and liberal. We voted thirty-eight millions and a-half, in round numbers, for the service of 1886; we voted about thirty-four millions and a-half, in round numbers, for the service of 1887; and yet the first thing our attention is called to when this House meets is that, over and above the thirty-eight millions and a-half appropriated for 1886, over and above the thirty-four millions and a-half appropriated for ordinary service in 1887, with a large sum further required on capital account, the Government of Canada have, under Governor's warrants, abstracted from the public Treasury two sums, one of \$308,748, for the service of the few remaining weeks of 1886, and another, amounting to \$2,005,539, for the service of the current year. I think that all hon. gentlemen on both sides will agree that this House would be entirely false to its duty if it did not, at an early period, institute an investigation into the circumstances and causes which have induced the Government of Canada, without parliamentary authority, to withdraw amounts of very nearly two millions and a-half of dollars from the public chest, without any parliamentary authority whatever, under the pretext that they were entitled to do so by Governor General's warrant. Now, Sir, although this question was alluded to incidentally yesterday, it is desirable, in case any hon. gentleman here should not be familiar with the clause, that I should read to the House the circumstances under which this extraordinary prerogative may be exercised. As I said, there is but one occasion on which, according to law, the Government are authorised to order a special warrant to issue, and this is defined as follows:—

"If, when Parliament is not in Session, any accident happens to any public work or building which requires an immediate outlay for the repair thereof, or any other occasion arises when an expenditure not foreseen or provided for by Parliament, is urgently and immediately required for the public good, then, upon the report of the Minister of Finance that there is no parliamentary provision, and of the Minister having charge of the service in question, that the necessity is urgent, the Governor in Council may order a special warrant to be prepared and be signed by the Governor General for the issue of the amount estimated."

Now, I want to call the attention of the House *seriatim* to the sort of charges which have been conceived to be warranted under this clause, which have been conceived to be sufficiently urgent to authorise the issue of a Governor General's warrant, and to be of a class which could not reasonably be foreseen or provided for in Parliament. As I have said, we separated in the first week of June last, and I find that in the short interval between the 2nd of June and the first of July, the Government found themselves obliged to call for \$150,000 to pay the Mounted Police accounts in connection with the suppression of the rebellion. Now, that rebellion had been suppressed about a year previous to the date this order was issued, and I submit that one of two things has occurred: either the Department, whose duty it was to provide the Finance Minister with the requisite estimates, has been conducted *prima facie* with great carelessness, as otherwise their estimates could not have come short of the required amount by so large a sum as \$150,000; or it has been found convenient to suppress their estimates and to adopt this extraordinary mode of providing the funds required rather than allow them to appear and be discussed in Parliament. Then I find, under the head of Charges of Management, an additional amount of \$100,000 required. Now, Sir, I confess that I cannot see how it was that with ordinary circumspection on the part of the Department whose duty it was to ascertain what was required for this service, so large an additional sum as \$100,000 should be required. I think, also, that on the 2nd of June, or

thereabouts, when we separated, the Dominion Lands Department ought to have known sufficiently nearly what they would require to expend for income to have been able to estimate for it for the few remaining weeks, instead of demanding by Governor General's warrant nearly \$19,000. However, it is possible that there may be a sufficient explanation to be advanced with respect to these various charges. But, Sir, when we come to the larger warrants involving the enormous sum of \$2,000,000, which have been added to the service of this present year, I confess that it does appear to me, on the face of it, that very grave irregularities, to say the least, have prevailed. Now, it might have been necessary that on the 1st of February, 1887, we should require to vote \$125,000 to pay certain legal costs between the Windsor and Annapolis Railway and ourselves.

Mr. MITCHELL. That is one of the election expenses.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I cannot say. Some of those dates as the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Mitchell) appears to perceive are singularly suggestive; but bearing in mind the delays which have occurred on other occasions in payments of awards, I do not see myself there was any such hurry for the payment of this sum of \$125,000 on the 1st of February.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What was that?

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. That was the award to the Windsor and Annapolis Railway. The award was a legal one, therefore I do not pretend to say that it may not have been necessary to provide for it; but my recollection is that in a good many other cases after these awards have been made, considerable time elapsed before they were paid. However, I am not going to insist upon that item. It is one that calls for explanation, no doubt, but it is one as to which there may be, and there probably is, a satisfactory explanation to be given. As to the next item of \$46,000 for the Banff Hot Springs, and to pay for surveys, roads and bridges—we had that tolerably well discussed on a recent occasion, and I will only say that I believe that if there was one class of expenditure which was never contemplated by the framers of this Act or by Parliament, to be defrayed by Governor General's warrant as an urgent public necessity, it was an expenditure of money for walks and drives in a public pleasure ground. Now, Mr. Speaker, I perceive that a considerable sum of money, about \$32,000, has been taken by Order in Council for salary and expenses of Commissioners on rebellion losses. That may be in itself a reasonable expenditure, but I think it was quite within the competence of the Government, and of the then Minister of Finance, and of the Department concerned, to have foreseen that this sum would be required, and to have made a provision in the Estimates; or if they liked, to have taken a larger amount under the head of Unforeseen Expenses, to which such Commission might properly enough, perhaps, be charged. The same remark would apply to the Royal Commission on Railways, for which a charge of \$20,000 is made. I think that that subject was also discussed, and I think that if the Government thought it expedient to issue a Railway Commission, they might with great ease have foreseen and provided in the Estimates, a reasonable amount for covering it. Now, Sir, I do not object so much to bringing forward the lapsed balance of the appropriation for expenses of the rebellion, because that had already been discussed in Parliament, and that, perhaps, is one of the cases in which they might reasonably and legitimately, not having been able to get through this expenditure by the 30th of September, have applied for Governor General's warrant. But when I come to the grants for seed grain to settlers in Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, although I am aware that there was serious destitution in that region, and, therefore, I forbear criticising this as much as I otherwise might, I