

Hon. Mr. FIELDING. The only thing is the force of a very good example. With the knowledge that we are giving cleaner Dominion notes, the banks will be induced to treat the public similarly. I think that the bank circulation has been improved.

Mr. CLARKE. Have the government taken any steps to bring this matter to the attention of the banks?

Hon. Mr. FIELDING. It is a subject of frequent conversation between the officers of the department and bank managers whenever opportunity occurs. We have not taken any formal action.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It is not a matter over which the Canadian Bankers' Association has any jurisdiction?

Hon. Mr. FIELDING. Not specifically, but they can do a great deal. I hope that through their instrumentality something may be accomplished in that regard.

Mr. OSLER. I think that the banks are endeavouring to improve their circulation and that is badly required. I must say that the Dominion notes have improved in the last year or two, but they still fall very far short compared with those issued by the United States government. You cannot go to any hotel in the United States and get change without getting practically new one dollar bills. Our Dominion notes have improved very much, but they are far short of the condition of the bills issued all over the United States, and I think that the hon. minister would be quite justified in asking for a larger appropriation to make our one dollar bills, at all events, up to the standard of cleanliness that prevails in the United States to-day.

Mr. JABEL ROBINSON. Has the hon. minister taken any steps to issue bills of a larger denomination?

Hon. Mr. FIELDING. No definite action has been decided upon. We are contemplating a five-dollar bill, for which there is some demand. The four-dollar bill is regarded with a measure of disfavour by the banks; we are told that it is inconvenient.

Mr. CLARKE. The five-dollar bill is more convenient than the four.

Hon. Mr. FIELDING. I have observed that many people would rather have the five than the four.

Printing Dominion notes, \$110,000.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the rate of cost for printing these Dominion notes?

Hon. Mr. FIELDING. It is fixed under contract, which has been before the House. I could not tell my hon. friend the rate from memory, but will look up the contract and tell him the facts.

Mr. OSLER. The contract has some years to run?

Hon. Mr. FIELDING. Yes; it runs for a term of years.

English bill stamps, postage, &c., \$10,600.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What does that really mean—'English bill stamps'?

Hon. Mr. FIELDING. The stamp duty there is quite heavy on all financial transactions. This is a sum we have to vote every year in connection with the stamps on treasury bills and everything of that kind.

Expenses in connection with the conversion of the public debt; payments may be made to members of the civil service, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service and Superannuation Acts, \$5,000.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What is the meaning of that?

Hon. Mr. FIELDING. This item was put in last year in anticipation of certain events. I anticipated that Mr. Courtney would probably retire immediately, and I was anxious to retain his services in an advisory capacity for a year or two longer—certainly for a year—pending certain large financial transactions. It was contemplated that we might use a portion of this money in retaining Mr. Courtney's services. All that has been changed, and the only charge against the item has been the expenses of a couple of trips to England in connection with the transactions. If Mr. Courtney should retire at the close of the present fiscal year and I should carry out the policy then contemplated, of asking him to remain connected with the service in an advisory capacity, we could pay for his services out of this vote. Whether that plan will be carried out as contemplated some months ago, I am not able to say. Mr. Courtney is in England, and I do not know whether I can retain his services. I have thought that it would be well to take the vote in the same manner as last year.

Civil Government—Governor General's Secretary's Office—salaries, \$11,250.

Mr. CLARKE. What are the increases in this item?

Hon. Mr. FIELDING. There are none, except the ordinary statutory increases.

Governor General's Secretary's Office—contingencies, \$15,100.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. My hon. friend now comes to items as to which it would be useful to us to have the advantage of reading the Auditor General's Report. The expenditure on this service is given in that report, is it not?

Hon. Mr. FIELDING. Yes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Perhaps it would be as well to allow those items to stand, in the consideration of which we require the assistance of the Auditor General's Report. But if there are any of these items as to which