

council for administrative purposes, but for such a Board as that now constituted there was no precedent. In England there were a number of subordinate ministerial offices, as President of the Board of Trade, Secretary of Ireland, etc., but their subordination was marked by their having smaller salaries than the first class Ministers. If in Canada also we were to have subordinate Cabinet offices, we ought also to have a scale of salaries commensurate with the unimportance of their positions. If the salary of a first class Minister was to be \$5,000, let the salaries of Minister of Customs, Minister of Inland Revenue, etc., be \$3,000.

The item was agreed to.

On the item Department of Customs, \$23,000,

Mr. Oliver said the expense of collecting the customs revenue was \$20,000. He thought a large number of the inland ports might be abolished. If this were done, there would be a great saving of expense, without any detriment to the public service. If some means were not taken to reduce the expenditure, dissatisfaction with Confederation would grow up in other quarters than in the Maritime Provinces. The people had been told that there would be cheap Government under Confederation. When it came out that the Governor-General's salary was to be \$50,000, this was the first indication they had that they had, perhaps, been deceived on this point. In these estimates he saw \$122,000 for Rideau Hall, including \$30,000 for furniture. Such extravagant items would produce a feeling among the people towards our present system far from satisfactory.

In reply to **Hon. Mr. Smith**,

Sir John A. Macdonald said it was not the intention to fill up the offices of Secretary for the Provinces and President of the Council, but if political exigencies justified such a step, they would not hesitate to take it. If fifteen or sixteen Ministers would facilitate the working of the Union, they would not hesitate to make the additional appointments.

Hon. Mr. Smith did not think that the appointment of additional Ministers would bring over Nova Scotia to the side of Union. He proceeded to refer to calculations published by an employee in the customs department to show that New Brunswick had not suffered very much by the recent tariff charges. He questioned the propriety of having a party paid out of the public chest for making such

[Mr. Holton (Chateaugay).]

fallacious calculations. He thought there were more employees in the Customs Department than could be necessary. Perhaps the Minister of Customs would state what office was filled by the gentleman he had referred to.

Hon. Mr. Tilley said the gentleman alluded to was Assistant Commissioner of Customs, at a salary of \$2,000, and went on to specify the duties belonging to the Department to show that there was work enough for all the employees. He understood the member for Westmoreland had said that he (Mr. Tilley) had stated before the Confederation that the expenditure of the Union would not exceed eleven and a half millions, whereas actually it was seventeen millions; what he (Mr. Tilley) had said, was that certain expenses of the Dominion would not exceed eleven and a half millions, and he said so still; and going further, he had said that the people of New Brunswick paying \$3.20 per head of taxes, would not pay a cent more under Confederation, and he was at this moment prepared to show that the whole people of the Dominion were not assessed in Customs and Excise, and stamps and bank dues, over \$3.20 per head. Mr. Tilley then went over the items in the estimates, selecting those which he said would not exceed eleven and a half millions, and showing that they actually summed up \$11,409,000, the difference between this and the \$17,000,000 was made up of railway expenditures, payment of debt, cost of collection, etc., etc. He agreed with the member for Oxford that as regarded the expense of collection, it should be reduced so far as consistent with the efficiency of the public service. He did not know, however, that the number of ports could be reduced to the extent urged by that honourable gentleman.

Hon. Mr. Smith said the Minister of Customs took the ground still that the people of New Brunswick were not paying more in the shape of taxation than before Confederation. He (Mr. Smith) thought it was an insult to the intelligence of the people of New Brunswick to tell them so. The honourable gentleman had told the people there that the North-West question would not be brought up for ten years, and not then until the finances would permit. Did he say so? He paused for a reply.

Hon. Mr. Tilley—That is not true.

Hon. Mr. Smith—Well, did he not say that that question would not be brought up for ten years, or at all events until the finances permitted?