

vitality, not upon the interest of a few eminent literary or scientific men, who have their lucubrations published in their transactions, but in the widely diffused interests of those who read and do not write, and unless that stimulus on the part of the promoters of the society—which you are now taking away—is maintained, the society will not succeed in the true sense of the term. The hon. gentleman says that the English Government gives £5,000, and he proposes that we should give \$5,000, or one-fifth of that sum. If our resources or our income were one-fifth of those of England, I could understand such a proposition; but our circumstances are not the same. I think, if the hon. gentleman had been able to show a large subscription list on the part of this society, or that there were a large number of persons sufficiently interested in its objects to take these transactions, there might have been some color for his asking Parliament for a supplement to these other funds; but we are to do what the public should have done in its individual capacity, and the public in its individual capacity is to provide the supplement.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. If the hon. gentleman's views were taken before Parliament, we might bid adieu forever to the hope of any scientific society publishing its transactions. When the United States, with fifty odd millions of inhabitants, and England with 33,000,000 of inhabitants, cannot support its scientific institutions by subscriptions, what chance would we have here? The hon. gentleman says there should be sufficient intelligence among the people to subscribe for these books. He might say that there should be a sufficient degree of political curiosity among the people to subscribe for *Hansard*, but he knows that we could have no *Hansard* without Parliamentary assistance; and so we cannot have the transactions of these societies published without Parliamentary assistance. He says there should be sufficient philosophical enquiry in the country to induce subscriptions to these publications; but we must invite the people by letting them know that we have scientific men publishing scientific papers and societies publishing their transactions. They must see these volumes in our public libraries when they go to look into particular subjects in which they are interested, and by degrees there will be generated, even in this young country, a strong desire for the dissemination of science. Persons of scientific tastes who are desirous of pursuing scientific pursuits or studies will have the opportunity of doing so by finding these volumes in our libraries. It is also to be remembered that this is the only subscription which has been given to any society, and if this country desires to have anything like a publication to the world of how much physical science or study exists in Canada, they can only have it by the publication of the transactions of these societies.

Mr. CASEY. It seems to me that if we are to pay for the publication of these transactions, the Government should have a considerable number in their own hands for free distribution.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am not prepared to say. But we may make such arrangements as we can without crushing out the energies of the society.

Mr. CASEY. The object of the publications is to get them circulated. I do not understand that they are going to sell them.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Of course, they are going to sell them. Every society of that kind sells its publications.

Mr. CASEY. The argument used was that we should assist in the publication because these books could not be sold.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No; but the sales would not pay the cost of publication. I have no doubt we will get a considerable number.

Mr. BLAKE.

302. Miscellaneous—To meet payments to extra clerks for services rendered in preparation of returns ordered by Parliament.....\$20,000.00

Mr. BLAKE. What is this?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Earlier in this Session, when all kinds of returns were being asked for, I said that the returns were very large and numerous, and that they involved such a large amount of work that Parliament must be prepared to pay the cost of those returns. Formerly they were paid out of Contingencies, but the amount of labor and expense involved is so enormous that no Departmental contingencies could stand it. In my own Department alone there has already been paid upwards of \$3,000, and the returns are not one-fourth through yet. They are working with a heavy staff of people put on specially for this work.

Mr. BLAKE. What is the estimate?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is impossible to say what it is going to cost.

Mr. BLAKE. This is a guess.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is simply a guess.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman knows that there were always extra expenses for returns, but they were paid out of Contingencies.

Mr. CASEY. If this sum is simply removed from the Contingencies, it ought to be entered as taken from the Contingencies. I would ask whether any part of the duty of preparing returns is expected to be done by the staff of the Departments?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Of course.

Mr. CASEY. And this is for what the staff could not do themselves?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is quite impossible to take any considerable portion of the permanent staff and employ them exclusively in making returns. Special copyists must be brought in for the Session.

Mr. BLAKE. That is true; but there are two observations to be made in this matter. One is that the hon. gentleman is transferring to another head that which is and ought to be part of the Departmental Contingencies; but instead of this item being placed under that head, we find the Contingencies as large as ever, and this vote is smuggled into another portion of the Estimates. It is not a satisfactory way, either as to the absolute or relative expenditure, to place under Miscellaneous that which should be part of the Contingencies of the different Departments. The other observation I have to make is this: It must be perfectly palpable to the hon. Minister that Parliament will require information under certain heads; certain returns are moved for every year; and I maintain that a well administered Department would look ahead, and that preparation would be made beforehand to meet the demand of Parliament for these obvious returns. Information is demanded for the proper consideration of public measures. When we have these Estimates, many items of which we are asked to pass and to concur in almost immediately, without sufficient information, it does seem to me that the material for an intelligent judgment upon all these matters ought to be prepared by the Ministers and brought down with the proposals. The newspapers tell us that the Legislature of British Columbia has passed upon some proposals of the Government; and it is rumored that we are to have before us some measure relating to them. I hope that we shall not have to move for the papers, but that the Government will bring down the papers indicating the conclusion of the negotiations which have been going on from year to year. If there has been any conclusion to these negotiations this Parliament should have been the first to know it; but the British Columbia Parliament