

The Legal News.

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Something very strange—something akin to a job—something which certainly needs explanation, is disclosed by the Public Accounts of the Dominion in connection with the expenditure for the Supreme Court. The thing has been going on apparently for a number of years, but it is only now that our attention has been directed to it by one of our readers. Turning back to the Public Accounts for 1881, we find the following item: "George Duval, supplying notes of cases decided in the Supreme Court to certain law journals, \$100." We looked with some interest to see what authority was given for such an extraordinary payment. The authority assigned is "43 Vic., c. 10," that is to say the supply bill for the year; but an examination of the Act, although it revealed a very formidable table of appropriations in connection with the Supreme Court, failed to throw any light upon the subsidy in question. The item, however, appears in the Public Accounts from year to year, but in the volume just issued for 1885, the entry is slightly varied, and reads thus: "George Duval, furnishing notes of cases in the Supreme Court to *Canada Law Journal*, \$100," that is to say, to the journal published at Toronto which formerly talked of "improving the Supreme Court off the face of the earth." (6 Leg. News, p. 90.) In the journal in question, these notes appear under the heading, "Published in advance by order of the Law Society" [of Ontario]. Now, apart from the fact that the payment in question appears to be unwarranted and unsupported by anything in the supply bill, it will be remembered that a considerable proportion of the Supreme Court judgments are in cases from this province. Why, then, should these notes be published four or five hundred miles away from the persons who are interested in them, and in a journal not circulated in this province? There is something so irrational, so inexplicable, in such a

proceeding that it is difficult to imagine how the abuse grew up, or could be tolerated for a moment, and it is surely only necessary to direct attention to it to have it remedied, for it is undoubtedly a gross misapplication of public funds. If it be deemed proper that the country should pay for the publication of these notes in advance, they should certainly be published in the province from which the appeals are taken, or at all events in the *Canada Gazette*, which is accessible to the profession at large.

The Public Accounts also show that the Supreme Court is favored in a manner which contrasts rather prominently with the treatment accorded to other Courts. Besides \$43,000 for salaries of the judges, there is a registrar at \$3,200, a *précis* writer at \$2,150, a first clerk, and a second clerk, a senior messenger, and two junior messengers, besides an occasional messenger; also, \$680 for sheriff and constables; and a large sum every year for books. Last year we have three items, \$468.78, \$668.15, and \$12.77, all for books, and \$310.30 for stationery. The judges of other Courts throughout the Dominion, we believe, are left to buy their own books, though their salaries are less by two or three thousand dollars per annum.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE CANADIAN FRANCHISE ACT, with Notes of Decisions on the Imperial Acts relating to registration, and on the Provincial Franchise and Election Acts; by Thomas Hodgins, Esq., Q.C. pp. 220. Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchison, Publishers.

A manual on this subject was obviously much needed, and from the examination we have been able to make of Mr. Hodgins' work, we are disposed to think that the task has fallen into excellent hands. The author states that the object is to provide a full summary of the law affecting all classes of cases relating to the Electoral Franchise, and likely to arise under the Canadian Act of 1885. The annotations aim at embodying all the leading cases which have been decided under analogous statutes in England and in the various Provinces, with brief