

for services rendered to the Empire, they should exclusively be paid by it. (Here Mr. C. read a part of the Message, which is as follows:—"The Pensions amounting to £1782 6 7 sterling, "though chiefly granted for services rendered to Canada, ——"considered as rendered to the Empire at large. It is from thence "therefore their reward for other acts of benevolence may be "expected to flow.")—These Pensions, although they had been exhibited yearly to the Legislature, on the Public Accounts of the Province, had in fact, been always paid from the military chest. This Province ought not, therefore, to be loaded with the Pension List.—Curiosity had induced him to look into Johnson's Dictionary for the meaning of the English word Pension, and if he were to rely upon the authority of that learned Englishman, the sense in which the word was received in England was odious in the extreme: "In England it is generally understood to mean "pay given to a state hireling for treason to his country." He had also consulted the same author for the meaning of *sinecure*, which was defined to be, "an office which has revenue without any employment." Was this Province disposed to tolerate such abuses, or would it not rather insist upon being altogether disincumbered of such an iniquitous list?—He was as well disposed as any Member in the House, to allow a liberal recompence to every Public Officer who had certain public duties to perform, but at the same time he thought it sufficient that they who were actively employed should be liberally recompensed, without recompensing those who did nothing at all.—The Pension List he would therefore wish to retrench totally and leave to be paid by Great Britain.—He could not on the present occasion pass over in silence the abuses which he found to have prevailed in the Custom House.—Notwithstanding the positive injunctions of the Laws of the Province the principal Officers of the Customs had taken a commission or per centage upon monies which had been paid into their hands for duties.—This was directly contrary to Acts of the Provincial Legislature.—To Acts which gave to the King a Duty for the support of the late war with America, and which never were intended to enrich the Custom House Officers at the expence of the Province.—In England the Custom House Officers were not entitled to fees, much less to a commission.—The 14th Geo. 3, C. 88, (an Act of the Imperial Parliament imposing certain duties for the support of the civil Government of the Province) does not allow any thing like a commission to the Collector or Comptroller upon which they have nevertheless exacted five per cent. The only Act allowing these Gentlemen a commission is the 33d of the King chapter 8th which gives them three per cent upon the monies levied under that act—every other act of the Legislature of this Province is either silent on the score of a commission to those Officers, (which he considered tantamount to a prohibition to exact any such) or else expressly prohibit them from deducting or receiving a commission.—The 33d of the King chapter 1st: and the 55th of the King chapter 3, are most explicit on the subject.—Formerly the collector received a salary of £100 per annum and the comptroller £70 per annum.—But it seems this would not answer the purpose, and on consulting the public accounts it would appear that they had found the commission a more lucrative speculation than the salary and accordingly abandoned the latter taking the former as an equivalent.—He cautioned Members to beware of the responsibility which they were about to assume.—The civil list was not the affair of a moment.—It was to be permanent—they should remember that the very money which they were about to bestow upon Placemen and Pensioners might perhaps come from the Pockets of some unhappy parent of a starving family of infants.—That it was upon the toil of the husbandmen they were to feed a herd of indolent and supercilious functionaries, and that he for one, was too well aware of the difficulty of earning a competency to squander away the public money upon a list of Hirelings.

Mr. Davidson.—Observed, that the Salary allowed to the Governor in Chief of these Provinces, so far from being enormous was considered as extremely moderate, when the Salary granted to the King's Representative in other Colonies, particularly Jamaica were compared with it.—He thought it barely sufficient to enable the first Officer in the Colony to live with suitable dignity.—The Salary hitherto allowed to the Secretary was certainly not a recompence for the services required of him, what was £200 a year for a situation of trust, and one which required the exertion of no ordinary talents.—There could not be a doubt that it was too small a stipend to enable a gentleman to subsist upon.—He would undertake to assert, that the very Gentleman who spoke last, paid even the Clerk's in his own Counting House, a better salary than had hitherto been paid by the Province to the Private Secretary of the Governor in Chief.—Surely every man who devoted his time and services to public business ought to be as liberally paid by the

public, as by an individual.—The contingencies mentioned in the Civil List he said were susceptible of objection, and he would be among the foremost to insist upon a rigid economy of the public monies, but he at the same time felt that it was due to the Executive, to repose some confidence in its discretion, by leaving at its disposition the sums required. The evils which might be supposed to result from so doing, could not be very alarming, for if any improper use of the sums appropriated for contingencies were to take place this year, it would be in the power of the House hereafter to prevent a recurrence of it in future, by withholding from the Executive any sum for contingencies which were not explicitly mentioned in the annual estimates.—Upon the whole, he thought it but fair to try the experiment.—He did not think with the *Cinical Lexicographer*, quoted by the Honorable Member who spoke last, that the sense of the word *Pension* was such as he supposed it to be in England.—He considered it as meaning a reward for services rendered to the State.—The Clamour against the Officers of His Majesty's Customs; was, he could inform the House in the present instance unfounded.—These Gentlemen had not in fact taken upon themselves to deduct any commission upon monies levied by them.—They had invariably paid the gross amount of duties collected by them into the Provincial Chest, and the Commission, which had been subsequently refunded to them, had been sanctioned by the Executive Council as an equitable remuneration for their trouble.

Mr. Cuivillier.—Expressed his surprise at the apology offered by the Honorable Member who spoke last, in behalf of the Officers of His Majesty's Customs.—He had as yet to learn by what authority the Executive Council could suspend the operation of Acts of the Provincial Legislature.—The excuse offered by the Honorable Member went to involve the Executive Council in a very serious imputation, that of suspending the Laws of the Land, or at least of assisting individuals to evade them by a shift, so palpable that it could not for a moment be listened to with attention.—He thought the subject worthy of further enquiry.

Mr. Speaker went largely into the discussion of the Civil List.—He thought the objections to the amount of the Governors' Salary by no means substantial, as it was only from the independance with which the Chief Magistrate in the Colony could live that Persons of rank & character from England and totally above the little local intrigues and jealousies common to colonies could be induced to accept of so arduous a charge as the chief command in these Provinces.—He cited instances in which from the want of a suitable provision for former Governors, they had involved themselves in speculations degrading to themselves and degrading to the dignity of the Post.—Our Governors ought to be entire strangers to every party or local interest and jealousy, and to enable them to be so, it was requisite to make a liberal provision for the personage occupying the important Post of Governor in Chief of British North America.—The situation of the Civil Secretary to the Governor was also a post of no small importance, & must necessarily require the undivided attention of a person of more than ordinary talents and knowledge. That Office ought to be filled by a person of knowledge, of respectability and of talents, and withal well acquainted with the Colony and its interests, and studious of promoting its welfare; if these requirements were essentially necessary in the individual who might be charged with the duties of that office, it was no more than common justice to give a salary competent to induce persons of the character and description he had mentioned to devote themselves to an honest and upright discharge of its functions.—He thought the salary ought to be equivalent to that of the Clerks of the Council and Assembly.—He had no material objections to the salary of the Lieut. Governor, provided he should reside in the Province, as the head of the Executive Council, in order that instead of that vacillating policy which we find constantly agitating the Province a steady, honest and uniform system might be introduced and acted upon.—The situation of Lieut. Governor of Gaspé was useless to the Province, it was a sinecure, and he therefore wished to see it upon the Pension List, so that it might die with the individual who held it.—The place of Surveyor of woods was in the like manner a sinecure and as such, ought to belong to the Pension List.—The Secretary of the Province ought to be compelled to reside in the Province or be immediately struck from the List altogether as a flagrant imposition.—It was indeed unfair and unjust to expect that the Province should pay so considerable a Sum as £450 Sterling annually to a person totally a stranger to it, and in which

probably he considered in the Inspector's salary charge to trench it altogether not suppress List, and certain consequences could be from his Commons for he must have made correspondence to time he this Province to promote the public good—well disposed winked and notoriously to present the sionally to t might very abouts grant be employed He was finally made upon to augment titled to an in Sum, require towards Mr. tion to make increase of which we coo shook his he

Mr. Bor, which mem fruitless and the same po which was deeded the C—it had m bers should more years present: t prevent an trifles, wh gained.—F List was th that the soc tend to the waste of ti apparent w nate the di in lump.

Mr. Stu thought M nions eithe frankly ad mine the C wished to much imp counts had the Session until Mem ject.—In t such vital Civil List to tell the compelled all.—It w find time v ing that t which mu the Agen when did surely nev Commons