

was \$66,704; in 1886-7 \$72,016. The Government had gone over the estimates of the cost of legislation for next year most carefully and he had no doubt that they were ample, and more than ample; the total was \$42,935, or less than the amount spent in 1885-6 by \$23,800, and less than the amount spent in 1886-7 by over \$29,000.

In the Executive Council Department the estimate for salaries was \$2,800 against \$4,300 in 1886-7. The total reduction was \$3,850.

In the Treasury Department the estimate for salaries was \$5,900; an increase of \$400 over the estimate of the late Government for the present year. In 1886-7 the cost for salaries in this department was \$7,851.10. The position of the Treasury Department when the present Treasurer took office had been shown; there had been no entries in the cash book for fifteen months, and a great deal of work had accumulated: this was the case when the estimates were reduced from \$7,800 to \$5,400. It was a mystery what the department proposed to do with \$5,400, when they could not keep up the work with \$7,800; and when in 1885-6 the total cost for salaries was over \$9,000. The only explanation seemed to be that, finding they could not with a large expenditure overtake the work, they concluded that they would reduce the salaries largely, and

DO NO WORK AT ALL.

(Laughter.) He did not wish to convey to the House the impression that the officials in the treasury department were not efficient, or did not work properly. On taking charge he had found them to be, he believed, as good as the Government would ever have. He had never had charge of any office in which he had found officials more anxious to see the work in proper shape, or who understood their duties better. He was sure that if they had had a head who worked properly, or had been allowed to do the work themselves, having no head at all, they would have had the work in a very different shape.

Reverting to the question of printing, Hon. Mr. Jones said there was an item which he had overlooked, an account of \$576.75, which the Province had paid, but for which it had never received any return. It consisted of some 30 different items, including, principally, a list of private bills (1887) of which the printing was charged by the Canadian Publishing Company, but which were never received by either the Queen's Printer or the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

In connection with the telegraph and telephone service, Hon. Mr. Jones mentioned what, he said, had seemed to him a rather amusing circumstance. A bill came in asking for payment for a telephone in his department. A voucher was made out by the deputy treasurer; but

when it went to the auditor he said there must be a mistake, as the telephone in the treasurer's office had been paid for. He (Hon. Mr. Jones) then went to the deputy treasurer, pointing out that it was rather awkward to send a voucher through for an account that had already been paid. The latter replied that he was satisfied it had not been paid. On looking into the matter he was satisfied that the auditor had arrived at his conclusion because a telephone had been paid for and charged to the department; but the telephone was in Mr. LaRiviere's house in St. Boniface. He then asked for a statement showing if there were other telephones charged for that were in private houses; and as a result he held in his hand a detailed statement of charges for all telephone services since 1883, showing in what offices the telephones were used. The total cost of telephones paid for by the Government up to ten days ago was \$3,468.73. He found that telephones in private residences and other places where they had no business to be had cost the Province \$980.35. These telephones were

FOUND IN PRIVATE RESIDENCES

and paid for as follows: Hon. J. A. Miller, private residence \$30, private office, \$60, total \$90; Hon. C. E. Hamilton, \$60; Hon. C. P. Brown, \$192; Mr. Constantine, \$67.50; the member for St. Andrew's, \$53; Hon. A. A. C. LaRiviere, \$285. (Laughter and sensation, during which Mr. McKenzie accounted for the greatness of the last item by remarking "He had it in both languages." This brought down the House, and the Hon. Provincial Treasurer was obliged to sit down until the paroxysm of laughter was over. He then proceeded: Acton Burrows, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Statistics and Health, \$139.50; private line to the Call office, \$15; A. H. Rennie, \$72. (Loud laughter.)

In dealing with the estimates in the Provincial Secretary's Department, Hon. Mr. Jones mentioned, in connection with the item, "Manitoba Gazette, \$2,000," that it was intended to somewhat lessen the uses hitherto made of the Gazette, thereby making the cost somewhat less, and at the same time lessening to some extent the receipts. Passing briefly over the proposed reduction of \$4,000 in the Attorney-General's department, and explaining that the small estimate of \$250 for the railway commissioner's department was merely to cover the expense of telegraphing and some incidentals, the department having been amalgamated with the Attorney-General's department and placed under the official who managed the lands branch office, he next took up the Agriculture, Statistics and Health Department. He compared the proposed aggregate of \$5,400 for salaries with the expenditure last year, of \$3,074, and that of the year before, of \$8,900, showing that the decrease was \$3,500, in the one case and \$2,674 in the other. The printing of the report of