

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That requires explanation, and will be explained fully when we arrive at that item.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I merely call attention to it. These two votes are substantially for the same work, and I should think that this \$30,000 for additional clerks at the head office ought to be charged to the Department of the Interior.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I cannot give the hon. gentleman the information now, but when we arrive at the item I think it will be shown that it is in the right place.

Mr. MITCHELL. I have not had a great deal to do with the Department of the Interior, and what little I have had has been extremely unsatisfactory. I think I only express the opinion of a large majority of the people of this country, when I say that the administration of that Department, under its present head, is not such as gives satisfaction to the country. I do not propose to enter into the causes of complaint now, because perhaps it is not the proper time. I have placed on the paper a notice for correspondence, and I would like the hon. gentleman to see that the head of that Department—who is not very rapid in furnishing information or carrying on business—sends down that information before we come to discuss the different votes required for the business of that Department.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I will certainly bring down the papers, if the hon. gentleman has a motion for them. I differ from my hon. friend when he says that the country is dissatisfied with the administration of that Department under its present head. My hon. friend may be dissatisfied.

Mr. MITCHELL. The hon. gentleman knows why I am dissatisfied, and when the papers come down, I think we shall show why the country is dissatisfied, too.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Geological Survey, the salary of the directors seems to be the same. There is an increase which seems to be the regular annual increase, \$7,400 instead of \$7,050.

Mr. MILLS. This seems to be about the only Branch in the hon. gentleman's Department that indicates its natural growth. There has been no very great change. Two additional parties are put on the field staff and there is the annual increase under the Civil Service regulations.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Who is acting as Librarian?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Dr. Thornburn, formerly head master, of the Collegiate Institute.

M. MACKENZIE. He cannot give his whole time and services for \$600.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes; he is a retired officer, and is fond of books and geological studies, and he is there with a nominal salary for the love of the thing.

Mr. MACKENZIE. He has other employment.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He is on the Board of Examiners, but he went in there without any expectation of being on the Board of Examiners. He took this office first as he thought he would like to be there, and he is a very useful man. When the Civil Service Board was being established, he was put on it because he was a superior man.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What are his duties?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I suppose, to look after the books as Librarian, and I fancy he takes a good deal of interest in the scientific and artistic arrangements of the specimens. Then, he is especially valuable for a duty which I think everyone will admit is of great importance in an institution of that kind, that is, the popularizing

of it in the public mind. He is always ready, in the absence of Dr. Selwyn, to do the agreeable to the numerous visitors, and the report of the directors will show the wisdom of the transfer from Montreal, by the fact that the visitors instead of numbering hundreds, now number thousands.

Mr. MILLS. I never doubted that it was the proper thing to have this important branch here instead of in Montreal, and I am glad to hear the hon. gentleman admit the propriety of the transfer. I suppose one important duty of Dr. Thornburn is as, Librarian, to look out for the various scientific publications throughout the world, and see that a proper collection is made for the Library in the Geological Museum. This duty is perhaps as important a duty as can devolve upon him, and will no doubt require a considerable portion of his time.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Then there is the item of North-West Mounted Police, in which there is no real increase. There is apparently an increase of two third-class clerks, but they have been employed temporarily for years and are now on the permanent list, having passed their examination before the Board.

Mr. MILLS. When this branch was connected with the Department of the Secretary of State, two clerks were considered sufficient to do the work, a first-class clerk at \$1,700, and a junior second-class clerk at \$1,000. That was the cost in 1878 and in the early part of 1879. There are altogether but 500 Mounted Police, and for the Department management of these, the hon. gentleman has four clerks and a messenger, and the expenditure is to be \$7,300, an extraordinary sum. Two clerks would still be quite adequate to do the work. In any well managed business office, two men of ordinary intelligence would be considered ample to do all the work required.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. The hon. gentleman has twice called the attention of the Finance Minister particularly to this matter of cost. The hon. gentleman understood me to state that \$22,500,000 would be sufficient for the expenditure. I stated that I thought \$22,500,000, between 1874 and 1878, would have been sufficient, but I never undertook to say—he is referring to the Department of the Interior—that, when that Department was managing hundreds of millions of acres of land, when nearly half a hundred million acres were surveyed and in the market for sale, and when, as the leader of the Government has said, they have received in three years ten times as much as during the whole period the hon. gentleman was in office, I never attempted to assert for a moment that the expenses for the future would not exceed \$22,500,000. The hon. gentleman and others have often referred to that statement as if it applied for all time to come, when it was distinctly made with reference to the period between 1874 and 1878, when no such expenditure was required in the North-West; or in the Post Office Department, or in other Departments of the Public Service.

Mr. MILLS. The Police Force, until recently, remained at the same number as it was fixed at before 1878. The number since then has been slightly increased, but the cost of carrying on the Police Branch at that time was less than \$3,000, when the hon. gentleman said that the cost of the Government of the country was too high; and here, in a fixed Department, where there was no possibility of the increase of the work of the Department, the cost has been increased from less than \$3,000 to more than \$7,000.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman says, he is satisfied that, with two active clerks, the whole business could be done.

Mr. MILLS. So I am.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman must enjoy his satisfaction, but Parliament did not think so when