

was given to these printers to prepare the first volume, and afterwards, seeing that they had done the work well, we gave them the second volume. The price was fixed by the Crown Printer, and the amount, \$2,920, was in accordance with the tariff.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). If the matter was pressing, the Government took the longest way to get the work done. We have not got those reports yet. The French report has not yet reached us.

On Resolution 309,

To pay Mr. A. Audet for translating into French the Report of the Canadian Pacific Railway Commissioners \$1,303.00

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). I have been asked, in connection with this item, to draw attention to a motion which appeared on the Notice Paper some time ago, calling for correspondence with reference to the dismissal of Mr. A. Audet from the Inland Revenue Office, Montreal.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am not in a position to answer the hon. gentleman on that.

On Resolution 310,

To pay sundry expenses incurred in connection with the Canadian Pacific Railway Commission, *vide* statement of Unforeseen Expenses laid before Parliament \$16,821.49

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). The great expense of this Commission is a strong argument against the appointment of similar Commissioners hereafter. Mr. Keefer received \$6,928; Judge Clark, \$6,917. The payment to a Judge of a County Court for acting on a Commission while drawing his salary as a Judge seems to me a gross irregularity. The system of—I must not use the word subsidizing—permitting a Judge to draw such a large sum, while his judicial duties are neglected, is a bad one. I cannot impress too strongly on the Government the propriety of discontinuing that system. It cannot be possible that the judicial functions of a Judge are properly discharged while he is closely engaged on a Commission, and this supplement to his salary will be an inducement to other Judges to ask, possibly, for some little contract which will enable them to supplement their salaries also. This is in keeping with the system of employing officers in the service overtime at extra pay. Mr. Davin, as Secretary, received \$4,483; Mr. Stevenson, \$6,646; Mr. Demers, \$2,920; Col. Audette, \$3,706, making a total of \$39,213. The Commission was as unproductive in its results as could well be conceived, so that the \$39,000 have been simply thrown away, and perhaps in some respects worse than thrown away, though the Government may feel that a certain portion was well spent in the interest of their friends.

Mr. RYKERT. During 1875 these hon. gentlemen opposite employed no less than 191 extra clerks at a cost of \$45,423 and gave thirty-five bonuses to these amounting to \$940, which they charged to Contingencies. One-fourth of the whole Contingencies was caused by the employment of extra clerks.

Mr. ROSS. That is a *tu quoque* argument. I have not checked the hon. gentleman's figures, but, in any case, we are not dealing with the late Government. I object, not to the employment of extra clerks during the Session when there is a rush of work, but to the employing of the permanent staff in working extra hours. I think the effect is demoralizing, and I say so conscientiously. But whether I believe it or not, I have a perfect right, with my increased Parliamentary experience and increased attention to that matter, to call attention to what I believe to be wrong. I take my present position in this matter where I have always stood, and I stand by that. I am willing to be condemned when I am wrong. I think the hon. member for Lincoln has done
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many things he would gladly not have done, and I think he has given many votes in this House he would not give over again.

Mr. RYKERT. No, no.

Mr. ROSS. Perhaps not, as he reached his maturity years ago. However, I hope he will live long enough to withdraw some of the statements he has made, and regret some things he has done.

On Resolution 326,

Unprovided Items of 1881-82 (*vide* Auditor-General's Report, page 435) \$542,992.32

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). I would like to ask a few questions on some of these items, and the first is \$20,000 for Contingencies in Civil Government. Could the hon. Minister give me some details of that large amount of money?

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I think that is mainly covered by a warrant issued for something like \$20,000 to cover the increased Contingencies of the Departments over and above the estimate. That was very largely arising from the number of clerks it was necessary to employ in preparing returns that were asked for the two last Sessions of Parliament. The Session before the General Election there was a general spirit of enquiry on the part of our friends opposite for all kinds of information upon all kinds of subjects, and this Session we have asked for a vote for that express purpose. My hon. friend will remember that down to the present Session, and in the accounts of last year, all these were paid out of the Contingencies of the Departments, and, therefore, increased considerably the estimated sum. In addition to that there is an enormous increase of business in the Department of Interior from the large surveys, applications for lands for settlement, and in various other ways. Under the regulations for the disposal of these lands, every hon. member knows that the duties of that Department were largely increased, necessitating many extra clerks. So, with reference to the Post Office Department, the amount of business was increased by the increased number of deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank, the increased number of accounts, and increased business in money orders.

Mr. ROSS. There was a further item of \$2,059 for Contingencies in the Senate.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. I regret that I have not the papers by me by which I could give the hon. member the details.

Mr. ROSS. Then the item under the head of Immigration, \$1,239.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. It is well known that Immigration expenditure was made larger during the close of last year than was expected, and much larger the current year, and the wonder is that, under the circumstances, and considering the calculations of the Government as to the amount of immigration, it was not even a greater amount.

Mr. ROSS. I see a charge of \$6,940 for rolling stock for the Pacific Railway.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. There were some open accounts when the transfer took place which were not closed until the end of the year, and I think even the present year there is a small item of a few hundred dollars that is not closed.

Mr. ROSS. Then there is a further item of \$96,000 for Dominion Lands.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. That is owing to the increased surveys. It was vitally important that as large a portion of that country should be put under survey as possible, and the Department considered it desirable to push forward the survey with greater rapidity than was provided for by the sum voted. The Government felt that Parliament would vote any extra sum necessary. We are doing the work as rapidly as possible with the sum at our disposal.