

of the Session, it required an explanation from the mover.

MR. MCDUGALL: I understand that the question is disposed of. I do not think that the hon. member has a right to discuss it now, nor would I have a right to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: Really, there is no question of any kind before the House. This matter is disposed of; but, as a practice of a very old character was introduced anew in the House, I thought it my duty to state to the House what the practice was. There is no question before the chair. I did not make any observation as to the importance of the measure.

MR. MITCHELL said he rose in self-justification. With regard to the proposition which the Speaker had propounded to the House with relation to what was the practice, he had risen to say that it was only with matters of importance, as was stated by May, that the House dealt in this connection. He had merely called attention to the fact that this was an important measure.

THE AUDITOR-GENERAL.

RESOLUTION CONCURRED IN.

Order for receiving Report of Committee of Whole on Resolution: That it is expedient to appoint an officer to be called the Auditor-General of Canada, salary not to exceed thirty-two hundred dollars per annum, *read*.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD asked the amount of salary of the present Auditor.

MR. CARTWRIGHT said the offices of Auditor and Deputy Minister of Finance were combined, the joint salary being \$3,200. He did not think that any salary was attached to the Auditor-General's office. He was treated as the deputy-head, and originally put on the same footing as other deputy-heads. Subsequent to the passage of the Act of 1871, whereby the office of Deputy Inspector-General was abolished, the Deputy Minister of Finance and the Auditor-General had been combined. The present Deputy Minister of Finance had, he believed, a further sum of \$1,000 as Secretary to the Treasury.

MR. MITCHELL.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: Then, in future, the Auditor will be a separate official from the Deputy Minister of Finance?

MR. CARTWRIGHT: Yes. Then there is another Bill before the House which repeals the office of Receiver-General, and dissociates the offices of Minister of Justice and Attorney-General.

MR. MITCHELL: I do not understand whether my hon. friend intends to increase the charges by this Act, but I suppose he wants to legislate my old friend, the Receiver-General, out of office. Will the Bill involve an increased expenditure?

MR. CARTWRIGHT: It will not.

Resolution *read the first and second times and agreed to.*

RECEIVER-GENERAL AND ATTORNEY GENERAL BILL.—[BILL No. 51.]

(*Mr. Laflamme.*)

SECOND READING.

Order for second reading *read*.

MR. LAFLAMME said the Bill provided for the abolition of the Receiver-General's office as a separate department, and its annexation to the Department of Finance. It was really dependent on the Finance Department, and its being merged therein would be of great advantage to the public service. The nature of the duties devolving on that Department were defined by Statute, and this Bill merely indicated that the office would be transferred to the Department of Finance, the Deputy Minister of Finance being entrusted with the powers now possessed by the Receiver-General. The first two sections of the Bill referred to the Receiver-General's office, but in the third section it was provided that the office of the Minister of Justice shall be sub-divided into two distinct branches. This was found to be necessary in consequence of the increased amount of work which devolved upon the Department since 1869. The Department, moreover, had charge of the penitentiaries, the amount of business in connection with which was daily increasing and required proper attention. It would be obvious, no doubt, to