

6. Divers Pensions.
7. Surveyor General's Department.
8. The Militia Staff and Contingencies.
9. Roads, and Post Houses Officers.
10. Money for the relief of Insane Persons, Foundlings and Sick.
11. The Houses of Correction.
12. The Trinity House.
13. Expences of Collection.
14. Other Expences of Government, not included in the Accounts of any Department.

As a great part of the sum required for the Civil List was already provided for and appropriated by several Acts of the Legislature, he would have been disposed to have supplied the difference by voting a round sum, without entering into the Estimate in detail; but as he thought it fair to give every reasonable scope to canvass the Estimates which were before the House, he had made up his mind to take the sense of the House distinctly on each head.—He would therefore begin by the first chapter, namely, "The Salaries of Officers of Government not included under the head of any Department."—Under this head the Message of His Excellency the Governor in Chief, recommending an augmentation of Salary to his Civil Secretary, necessarily would deserve the attention of the House.—A sum in addition to that mentioned in the Civil List was recommended by His Excellency for the Civil Secretary, making his salary five hundred pounds currency, the same as given to the Clerks of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, as well as to the Clerk of the Executive Council.—The Civil Secretary at present had no more than £200 per annum, which certainly was not a compensation sufficient to induce any Gentleman of character and talents, to assume the responsibility of so important an office. As to the other items which composed the first head, he thought that Members would not find them objectionable.—He therefore moved, that a sum not exceeding £10,012 18s. sterling, be granted to His Majesty to pay the salaries of Officers of Government, included in the first head of the Estimate, for the year 1818.

Mr. Vanfelson—observed, that he saw with displeasure, some items in the article of the Civil List which could not but meet with animadversion. The situation of Lieutenant Governor of Gaspe, for which the Province was called upon to vote the sum of Three hundred pounds sterling per annum, was in reality no more than a *sinécure*, as it was held by a person absent from the Province, and who, he believed, had never been in the Province for more than a few weeks. He did not, however, intend to insinuate that the Office was useless; on the contrary, the shamefully neglected state of the District of Gaspe rendered it highly expedient that an Officer, call him by what name you may, should reside in that District as an Agent or Superintendent of the Public Concerns in that quarter.—He thought it an imposition on the Province, that it should be charged with a salary for an Officer who was of no service to the Country, and he trusted, that if the salary were continued, His Majesty's Government would adopt speedy and effectual measures to compel Non-Residents to come and reside in the Province, so as to attend to the functions of their Office, or at least to resign, that they may be replaced by others who would do the duty. He however did not think it advisable to retrench any salary for the present year.—This he considered would be premature and unjust. It was no more than fair to leave every item of the Civil List *in statu quo*, for the present year, in the hopes, that Non-Residents might have time to be apprised of the risk to which they would be exposed in the event of their remaining absent from the Province for another year.—With respect to the Agent residing in London, said to be an Agent for this Province; he was at a loss to know from whom he held his Agency.—He surely was not the Agent of the Commons of Lower Canada who know nothing about him, and who, if it was to name an Agent in England, would name some man of weight and influence in the British House of Commons, and would, if necessary, give him a handsome income for his Agency—not the paltry sum of two hundred pounds per annum.—He was indeed much surprised to find such an Office on the Civil List of this Province, and, in one word, he thought it a novel and *insulting charge*, and as such he would object to it.—He observed several other items which ought properly to belong to the Pension List, that they might die with the persons who occupied them, and not be entailed on the Province as a perpetual expence upon it.—The Contingencies relating to the Administration of Justice, he observed, was also a subject well deserving the attention of Members.—He had no idea of allowing any speculation to be made of the public monies, and he would repeat what he had on a former occasion observed with respect to the Contingent Expences paid to the Law Officers of the Crown.—He did not think it right or decent that an Attorney General and a Solicitor General should both be paid for the same work.—One of these Gentlemen ought, as had here-

tofore been the case, to reside at Montreal.—He concluded by observing, that it was incumbent upon the House to keep a steady attention to the economy of the Public Money, and to let it be distinctly understood, that although they were not disposed to enter rashly upon an indiscriminate system of retrenchment for the present, yet that the Assembly would, at the ensuing Session, scrutinize the List with the utmost minuteness, and take especial care that not a half-penny should be paid to any person who might not have earned it.

Mr. Cuvillier—said, that the Hon. Member who spoke last had anticipated in a great measure the observations which he had intended to have made on the subject of the Civil List.—The Governor's salary was, he thought, enormous, and ought to be reduced, inasmuch as it was in part a remuneration for military services with which the Province had nothing to say.—Lord Dorchester had been content with one thousand pounds per annum.—His successor, Governor Prescott succeeded in getting it doubled to two thousand pounds.—And Sir James Craig, more expert than either of his predecessors had contrived to have it increased to four thousand five hundred pounds per annum, and this among other memorable things the Province had to thank him for. The situation of Lieutenant Governor of Gaspe, and that of Agent for this Province he thought equally useless and burdensome, and he was therefore resolved to withhold his consent to the payment of both these *sinécures*.—The latter he considered indeed as something worse than useless—it was in fact an affront to the Province, which had hitherto endeavoured to have an Agent in England, a measure, which from a mistaken policy, and for which it was easy to account, had been constantly and but too successfully opposed.—How then did it happen, that all at once the Commons of this Province were presented with an Agent at £200 per annum? Did Members know any thing of this Agent?—Had the Commons of Lower Canada any participation in his appointment, or could they consistently with the respect due to themselves correspond with an individual of whom they knew nothing but the name and the amount of his salary? The Agent of Lower Canada ought to be a person of rank and influence in England—could any Member on that floor, say who the Agent in question was?—He for one could inform them that their Agent was no more than an Understrapper in one of the Offices—he believed, in the Colonial Department.—Was this a person suitable to represent the Province of Lower Canada? No! When the Commons of this Province should appoint an Agent, it would be one of some higher importance than a Subaltern in Office, and that Agent should be liberally paid by the Province. With respect to the salary of the Governor's Private Secretary, he thought it too small, as that office ought to be filled by a Person of respectability and talents.—He knew nothing of the Gentleman who now filled that office, but upon adverting to the Message recently received from His Excellency the Governor in Chief, he could not but remark a circumstance that must strike Members.—It was, that the amount recommended for his future salary was filled up in a hand writing different from that of the body of the Message,—in fact, he believed it had been filled up by the Secretary himself, who without leaving it to the Assembly to fix the quantum of his salary, had already taken upon himself to establish what it should be.—This he conceived to be improper,—the quantum should have been left to the liberality of the House.—With respect to the Inspector General of Accounts, he thought his situation and that of his Clerk useless, as it was the duty of those Members of the Executive Council, who received one hundred a year, to inspect the Public Accounts, to do that duty: but upon casting his eyes a few lines lower on the Civil List, he found *suam* for a Committee of Audit of Public Accounts.—What was the meaning of this Committee? It is true there appeared to be no sum stipulated as salaries for the Councillors composing the Board of Audit—but will it always remain so?—Is the Province to pay an Inspector General of Provincial Accounts.—A Committee of Audit of Public Accounts, and half a dozen Councillors for business which ought to be done by the Executive Council.—The thing was preposterous.—He would never consent to such manifest waste of the Public Money.—The salaries of this Committee of Audit remained blank, and he would vote that they should so remain.—As to the office of Naval Officer, he could acquaint Members, that it was of record in their own Journals, that it was altogether useless, and as such had in the year 1794, by a Message from the then Governor, been announced to the Legislature, as it did not answer the purpose originally intended, namely, a check upon the Custom House Officers (here Mr. C. turned to the Journals, and read the Message to which he referred, Vol. 2, page 232.) The Pension List, he said, ought not to be entailed upon the Province, as it had been formally intimated by Message from the Governor, Lord Dorchester, in the year 1793, to the House of Assembly, that as the Pensions were intended as a reward