

for the government to have taken was to have asked a vote for any payments which were not distinctly enumerated in the Union Act as charges on the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The question was a very important one, as it affected the annual expenditure of four or five millions, whether Parliament was to have an opportunity of pronouncing upon it and revising the scale of expenditures, or whether it was to be held as authorized by Acts of the late Province.

Mr. Johnson said he would not assert that the salaries of the Judges should be reduced; but he held most emphatically that the salaries of Judges in the various Provinces should be the same. If the salaries in Ontario and Quebec were too large, let them be reduced; if in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia they were too small, let them be increased. But at all events let all the Provinces, as regarded their Bar and Bench, be put on the same footing. If justice was to be equally administered throughout the Dominion, the salaries of the Judges should be the same.

Sir John A. Macdonald, in reply to Mr. Blake, said the list of charges on the Consolidated Revenue Funds in the Union Act should be looked at from an Imperial point of view. The Imperial Parliament had certain interests to protect, and they therefore provided that the first charges should be expenses of collection, interests of public debts of the Province and the salary of the Governor-General. These having been protected, others had to be protected from the colonial point of view. This was accomplished by the provision that all acts of the various Provinces existing at the time of the Union should remain in force until modified or repealed. Under this provision he held that the Judges of the various Provinces had precisely the same right to their salaries as fixed by statute in the quarter succeeding the 1st of January last, as they had in the quarter previous to that date. He thought, however, it was advisable that the whole civil list should be revised and re-enacted, and the Finance Minister had prepared a measure for that purpose. The list of judicial salaries would thus come to be revised, but of course the utmost care should be taken to preserve good faith with those who had interests sanctioned by statutory enactment.

Mr. Blake agreed that the Dominion should fulfil the obligations transferred to it from the various Provinces; but still held that the expenditures to which he had referred should

[Mr. Blake (Durham West).]

not have been made charges on the Consolidated Revenue Fund until distinctly placed on it by the Parliament of the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. Rose said whatever might be the technical construction of the Union Act in spirit, it required the Dominion to meet the obligations created before the Union by the statutes of the various Provinces. He agreed, however, that it was desirable that this Parliament should take the earliest opportunity of re-enacting the statutes under which these obligations existed.

Mr. Johnson said the Government, without any authority from Parliament, had increased the number of heads of departments to 13, at a salary of \$5,000 each, with thirteen deputies at \$32,000. If this could be done under the Union Act, there was nothing to have prevented the salaries of the Judges in the Maritime Provinces from being placed on the same footing as those of the Judges in Ontario and Quebec.

The item was agreed to, as also the corresponding items for the other Provinces.

On the item of secret and detective service, \$50,000.

Mr. Mackenzie asked an explanation of the entries in the public accounts with reference to the expenditure of \$100,000, voted as secret service money for 1866-67.

Sir John A. Macdonald said fifty thousand dollars had been placed at the disposal of a sub-committee of the Privy Council, consisting of four members, for secret service. At the 1st July last they had expended \$41,600, and the balance of appropriations was considered to be wiped out. In the previous year there had been a vote for frontier service, and some of the accounts, properly chargeable against that vote, had been erroneously charged against the secret service. This occurred during his absence in England, and on his return he at once said that these accounts ought not to have been so charged.

Mr. Mackenzie said that in the list of unexpended appropriations, on page 101 of public accounts the unexpended balance of secret service money of 1866-67 was stated to be \$34,526. This would make the expenditure to have been \$66,000 instead of \$41,000.

Sir John A. Macdonald said the difference between the \$41,000 and the \$66,000 should have been charged against the ordinary administration of justice.