

possessed that vested right which had been denied them. He hoped that the Chairman of the Committee would assent to strike out the seventh clause, (the 12½ per cent. reduction) and so render the report more likely to meet with consent from all sides.

**Mr. Scatcherd** again spoke in support of the report.

**Mr. Gibbs** hoped that the Chairman would consent to the very moderate proposal of the member for Shefford, and so obviate the necessity of dividing the House. He had been an advocate for Confederation mainly because he hoped that it would inaugurate a system of economy, and he had listened with pleasure to the sentiments on this point uttered by the honourable member for York in moving the address at the commencement of the Session. But he had been astonished to find the same gentleman sometime later objecting to the amount of indemnity and mileage proposed to be granted to members, and reflecting on the parsimony of the House because they had declined to double the amount the Government proposed. It was very much the same thing upon this subject, where a whole day had been taken up in debating what was after all a trifling matter, (hear, hear) while their own interests were left untouched and large sums voted away silently day after day.

**Mr. Gaudet** (in French) supported the report amid some applause.

**Mr. Savary** could not understand how it was to be insisted on that the report should either be adopted or rejected in its integrity. He could not consent to the indiscriminating reduction of a fixed percentage without consideration of circumstances or merits. He endorsed the position of the Minister of Customs who denied any legal and moral claims upon the House by the servants of the old House of Assembly, and would therefore, so far as the reduction of the number of officials went, sustain the report which did not go to tell any of these that they had been dismissed, but simply that they were not to be retained under the new authority.

**Hon. Mr. Langevin** declined to adopt the suggestion of modification, stating that as Chairman of the Committee he was bound to move, and would move for the concurrence in all its recommendations.

**Mr. Mills** (who rose amid loud cries of question) supported the report.

The amendment was then declared lost, and the resolution put and agreed to.

Resolutions two to six were then carried without dissent.

Upon the 7th resolution being put

**Dr. Parker and Mr. Sproat** having reiterated some of the previously urged arguments in opposition,

**Mr. Colby** declined to submit implicitly to the judgment of the Committee regarding the qualification of gentlemen with whom he himself was equally well acquainted. There were but four gentlemen receiving a higher salary than \$2,000 and all these gentlemen he had been accustomed always to hear mentioned as having been able in times of difficulty to give valuable information and assistance to the leaders of the Government or the Opposition. They were gentlemen of high social position and attainments, who were qualified to be a credit to any country. He could not conscientiously vote for any reduction of the salaries of any of these four gentlemen, nor consequently of any of those of lower remuneration, and ridiculed the principle of attempting to obtain efficient public service by offering it to the lowest tender.

**Hon. Mr. Johnson** (who spoke amid repeated and continuous interruption) having supported the resolution,

**Hon. Mr. Huntington** desired to ask the Minister for Justice whether anything had happened to change his high estimate of one gentleman affected by this resolution to whom he had, in 1865, moved an additional remuneration in compliment to the value of his services. He (Mr. Huntington) added that he would not have so far that night trespassed upon the time of the Committee, had he known that the Government was determined to carry through the report verbatim.

**Sir J. A. Macdonald** said that nothing had happened to alter the opinion he had always entertained of the Librarian, who had lately even won increased public approbation. He would take the opportunity of disclaiming Government responsibility in this matter of House appointments which had always been regarded jealously by the House.

After some remarks from **Hon. J. S. Macdonald** in reply,

**Mr. McDonald (Antigonish)** doubted whether the adoption of the report, being essentially