

Mr. WELDON. I see a vote for gas. I understood the previous vote covered the gas.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I stated that the \$6,215 increase on the expenditure went to the Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors and Excisemen. As to Gas, there is an increase for travelling expenses.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. But here is a precisely similar item. "Rent, fuel, travelling expenses, &c., for Weights and Measures;" and immediately below, "ditto, ditto for Gas." If the hon. gentleman is taking here \$6,500 for gas, I do not exactly see how he reconciles that with the statement he made a little while ago, that the increase of the last vote under the head of "Travelling expenses, rent, fuel, stationery, &c.," was largely due to the necessity of providing additional accommodation for Gas.

Mr. COSTIGAN. No; not accommodation for the officers, or anything like that. The \$6,000 there, I stated, was largely on account of the additional travelling expenses incurred by the additional officers we had to appoint by extending the gas inspection to different cities, and by officers travelling more, on account of the great increase in the manufacturing establishments they had to visit.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The hon. gentleman specially refers to Gas, and here is a special vote for Gas.

Mr. COSTIGAN. If I included that in the previous item, I should not have done it.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). I desire to ask the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue if, in the aggregate here for the salaries of Inspectors of Gas, provision is made for the Inspector of Gas in the Province of British Columbia, and if it is his intention to put the Inspector of Weights and Measures and the Inspector of Gas together, to form a position separate and distinct from the Collector of Inland Revenue in that Province, and if provision is made in these Estimates for that.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I cannot answer the hon. gentleman as to the combination of the different offices he alludes to. I think I may say it is the intention to provide for the inspection of gas in British Columbia, and to appoint an officer.

Mr. BAKER. Hitherto the Collector of Inland Revenue in Victoria has performed the duties of Inspector of Weights and Measures. Now, in addition to that, I understand that an Inspector of Gas will be appointed. What I would desire to see, as representing that constituency, would be that the Inspector of Weights and Measures and the Inspector of Gas should be one and the same person, and that that same person should be separate and distinct from the Excise officer—should not be the same individual.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I think the hon. gentleman is quite right, and it is upon that principle we generally act in making appointments.

Mr. BAKER. There is provision made in these Estimates for the appointment of an officer of that description.

Mr. COSTIGAN. Yes; there is provision made.

INSPECTION OF STAPLES.

193 For the purchase and distribution of standards of flour, &c., and other expenditure under the Act.....	\$3,000 00
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ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

194 To meet expenses under the Act.....	\$15,000 00
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Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What does the hon. gentleman want the additional \$3,000 for?

Mr. COSTIGAN. It is a very small increase, I think. Under the vote of \$12,000 we were enabled to maintain an analyst and provide for the inspection of food and drugs in

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

Montreal, London, Halifax, St. John, Quebec and perhaps one or two more cities that I do not recollect now. It is desirable, of course, to extend the operations of that Act, and I am sure the hon. gentleman will admit that we cannot extend it very far with \$3,000. We have made arrangements to extend it to Winnipeg. That will take part of the \$3,000, and the balance will be used to extend it to any other city that we can with the means at the disposal of the Department.

MINOR REVENUES.

195 { Minor Revenues	\$5,000 00
Dominion Lands	2,000 00

In answer to Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT,

Mr. COSTIGAN. The vote for Minor Revenues includes such expenses, for instance, as the maintenance and care of the bridge at the Chaudière. We pay the officers, who are appointed by our Department. As for Dominion Lands, some of them are leased and our officers are appointed Collectors.

PUBLIC WORKS.

201 Collection of slide and boom dues.....	\$20,985 00
202 Repairs and working expenses, Harbours and Slides	89,250 00
203 Telegraph Lines between Prince Edward Island and the mainland.....	2,000 00
204 Land and Cable Telegraph lines of the Sea Coasts and Islands of the Lower Rivers and Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Maritime Provinces.....	15,200 00
205 To meet the cost of working steamer <i>Newfield</i> when required on cable service.....	5,000 00

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This is in case a steamer may be required to repair the cables; it may not be expended at all. The small cable has been cut once and sometimes twice. It was cut accidentally by friction on the rocks.

206 Telegraph Lines, Manitoba and North-West Territories	\$17,000 00
207 Telegraph lines, British Columbia.....	37,500 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. How comes that to be so expensive? and what do the lines in Manitoba and British Columbia pay?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The revenue has been largely increasing in British Columbia during the last three years, but I cannot tell how much these lines pay. I will give a statement for both lines on Concurrence.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria, B.C.) In British Columbia the receipts last year were close upon \$13,000.

Mr. GAULT. The Department is doing so well in British Columbia with the telegraph service that I hope the Government will very soon take over the whole of the telegraphic and telephone lines of the country into their own hands.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. That is a big question, which the Government will do well to consider. If I am rightly informed, the results in England have not been altogether so satisfactory as were expected. However, there is room enough for discussion.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This is a big question, and I do not think that after midnight is a proper hour to discuss it.

208 Telegraph and Signal Service generally.....	\$9,500 00
209 Agent and Contingencies, British Columbia.	4,000 00

Mr. BAKER. I was not aware there was an agent specifically of the Department of Public Works in British Columbia. What is his salary?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. The agent is the hon. Mr. Trutch, and the amount paid to him for the services he performs for the Department of Public Works is \$600. There is also salary of the accountant, Macdonald, \$1,200;