

depressed condition of trade and industry, with the prospect of a very large falling off in the revenue, with thousands of people in all our towns and cities out of employment and obliged to go abroad to obtain that employment which is denied them here, it is certainly very important that the Government should undertake to economise, and that Parliament should see that large sums which are unnecessary should not be voted for the purpose of Civil Government. It is, Sir, perfectly obvious that this Department has grown in cost of management much more rapidly—I do not say in consequence of anything done by the hon. gentleman who is now Secretary of State, because I see that the amount last year was quite as large as the amount asked for the succeeding year.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. There is a reduction of \$2,400.

Mr. MILLS. That is for next year; but the amount is apparently \$1,000. The amounts are \$14,245 for the current year, and \$43,230 for the succeeding year. But I still revert to the point to which I called the hon. gentleman's attention before, and that is, that the Department costs now about \$14,000, while in 1878 it cost \$29,000.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. The decrease this year, I said, was \$2,400. That is to say, \$1,015, and if you take into consideration the statutory increases there will be another decrease of \$1,450, making \$2,460 less for next year. If I go on at this rate for six years, we will come up to 1878.

8. The Department of the Interior \$107,034 00.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. In our Estimates, this vote is separated into different branches, and I think it will be better to discuss them separately.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Deputy-Head is the same; so is the Surveyor-General. There has been an increase of \$50 in the Chief Clerk (Secretary) salary. In the salary of one Chief Clerk there has been an increase of \$75. Then, there is an additional Chief Clerk at \$1,800. He was brought from the Department of Justice. The next clerks are the same, with but a slight reduction. In the next there is an increase. I suppose some new clerks have been appointed. There is an additional third-class clerk in the Geological Survey Branch. I think the others are merely statutory increases. The additional second-class clerk must have been promoted from the class below. Then there is an additional third-class clerk, at \$400.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. There are apparently three or certainly two additional third-class clerks.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes; there was a promotion of a third to a second, and two third-class clerks were brought in.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I notice that the total is only slightly less than in 1833-84, but I should imagine that the present work of the Department is not as great as in 1884-83.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The work is increasing annually. The number of surveys is increasing, and the number of clerks is, of necessity, also increasing, and I think the hon. gentleman will admit that it is necessary to have a very full staff for the Department of the Interior, in order to secure promptness in the work. There have been complaints of delays, although a great many of those complaints are unfounded, still there is no doubt that the staff has been greatly overworked.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I notice that there is one first-class clerk, for whom no vote is asked this year. Has some clerk left?

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Yes; the hon. gentleman will note that there is a substitution. One at \$2,250 seems to have gone, and another gentleman at \$1,800 has taken his place. Who is the man who has left.

Mr. MILLS.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I forget at the moment, but I know that Mr. Hall was the gentleman who came in his place. He is a valuable officer, especially selected after enquiry by the Deputy-Minister from the Department of Justice, who really begged the Minister of Justice for him, as he was very much required in the Department.

Mr. MILLS. It is impossible that the House can form a proper idea of the expenditure of this Department from the facts put before us. The hon. gentleman should have laid before the House some evidence of the work of the Department, and the particular Branches of the Department in which that extra work is to be found. I find that in 1878, for instance, in the Land branch, there were twenty-five clerks employed; to-day, I observe, the hon. gentleman has sixty-two in that same branch. Then \$30,800 was sufficient to meet all the expenditure. Now the hon. gentleman asks upwards of \$67,000. Has the hon. gentleman a larger number of persons engaged in the preparation of maps? Is there anything in the hon. gentleman's report to show that the number of letters received and written, the amount of work done, the number of persons who have taken up homesteads, the number of patents issued, have so increased as to justify the large sum asked? The hon. gentleman ought to place before the House some evidence that this large sum is necessary, before he asks us to vote it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is some foundation for the statement of the hon. gentleman as to the report not being submitted to the House. It has almost broken the heart of the Department not to have been able to get the report ready in time. I am glad to say I saw it in galley three or four days ago, and it will be in the hands of the House almost immediately. I regret that, from stress of work, it has not been here before. The hon. gentleman compared the work of 1878 with that of 1883-84. Why, since 1879 there has been more money collected and more work done, I was going to say by ten times, than from the time the country was acquired until 1879. We have received upwards of \$4,000,000, and there is \$4,000,000 due to the Government and certain to be paid, because we have the land and the present payments as security. It was no fault of the Department that the report has not been down before. It was pressed very much, and it will be here in a day or two. In the meantime, I think the hon. gentleman will not object to the vote, seeing that we are not asking for so much as was voted last year.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Well, there is something in that; but the understanding is, that the hon. gentleman will not ask Concurrence until he brings down the report containing the information my hon. friend is seeking for.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think I can promise that.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. On that understanding, and on the statement that the heart of the Department is nearly broken, I think we can concede this point. But before we part from this item, I would like to call attention to an item on page 109, "Dominion Lands chargeable to Income," under which large sums are asked for the Land Board at Winnipeg, which I think collects most of the money.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The money is collected by the local agents and forwarded to headquarters; and the Board at Winnipeg grants titles and supervises the actions of the local agents.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The final item here reads: "Inside service—extra clerks at head office, Ottawa, publishing maps, advertising, and other similar expenses, \$30,000."