

taking into account the salary of the junior clerk who, at all events, ought to have been on the staff, he would have effected a saving by that arrangement of \$1,400 per year. During his whole time in the Chair, he had directed his attention particularly to reducing the number of permanent officers on the staff, rather than to reducing salaries, many of which were quite small enough. Even deducting the salary of the junior clerk there would have been a net saving of \$600, and, in the whole, of \$1,400 per year. Such was the course he had pursued in reference to these appointments. He understood that these appointments had not been recognised, and they had heard in the House the extraordinary statement that Mr. Piché, who was formerly first clerk assistant, and who no longer appeared at their table, had not tendered his resignation, and had not been dismissed, and yet that Mr. Speaker had appointed another in his place and room. He thought it necessary now to supplement that statement by another on his own behalf, namely, that he had never received Mr. Piché's resignation, and had never dismissed him. For all he knew, Mr. Piché was today as well qualified as when he was appointed years ago, to discharge all the duties of Assistant Clerk of this House. What had been done with him, and why it had been done, it was for others to say. But neither Mr. Speaker nor himself had either dismissed Mr. Piché or received his resignation, and they had shared between them all the authority there was to exercise, during the last twelve months, to do one or the other. The mode and manner in which Mr. Piché had been got rid of was something demanding an explanation from some quarter. He believed that he had now placed the matter fully and fairly before the House. He had looked into the whole case as thoroughly as he could, both as to the law and the practice. If he had not had the power of appointing then, no one else had. The Commissioners of Internal Economy, apart from the Speaker, had no power whatever; even combined with the Speaker, they had no power as Commissioners either to make or unmake any such appointments as this. He desired to say, further, that, up to the last moment, up to

last Thursday at three o'clock, when he ceased to be the Speaker, he had never received, either directly or indirectly, the slightest intimation that the Commissioners of Internal Economy desired to make any new appointments. He did expect, during the long interval that ensued, that information would be conveyed to him, but not the slightest intimation ever was conveyed him in any way. Some money matters required that he should sign some cheques as Speaker, and that these cheques should furthermore be signed by some of the Commissioners. Before coming to Ottawa, he had sent up some of these cheques leaving the dates blank, supposing the Commissioners, whoever they were, would sign them; and he suggested to the Accountant that he should speak to the Premier or Finance Minister and have something done so as to avoid irregularity. When he came here, he found those cheques lying as they were, and he had to tear them up and prepare others. The subject was one with which the House should deal and, when he put the House in possession of all the facts, and of such matters of law and usage as he had been able to make himself acquainted with, he had fully discharged his duty as the one who, up to last Thursday, held the position of Speaker. It was now incumbent on the House, the guardian of its own rights, liberties, privileges and independence, to determine whether anything should be done in this matter. When the papers came down it would be open to any hon. member to move a resolution respecting this affair. It was of the utmost importance that no difficulty of this kind should arise hereafter. If the Premier thought the Executive or any member of the Executive ought to be clothed with authority to regulate these matters in the interval between the dissolution of one House and the meeting of the next, he ought to introduce a Bill to that effect, defining the duties of the Speaker, so that the head of this House, the agent selected by this House, should not find himself in the humiliating position of not knowing exactly what his duties were. Though he (Mr. Anglin) believed he did know his, and that he had done nothing which he had not the right to do, still there should be no room for

MR. ANGLIN.