

case the government chose in 1892 an expert from Scotland. Mr. Prince occupied a chair in the Scottish University when brought to Canada.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. I know Mr. Prince fairly well and think he is a good man. I do not see why you do not give him what you think he is worth. If you say he is worth a good deal more, why not give it to him? He is at the head of his class and only getting \$2,000.

Mr. PREFONTAINE. We thought by giving him \$200 this year, we were doing fairly well. Probably we might have given him more.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. Has he had his regular increase?

Mr. PREFONTAINE. No. Mr. Stewart is a graduate of the Kingston Military College. He is chief of the hydrographic survey. He entered the department in May, 1884. His present salary is \$2,250. We are making the salary of this very capable officer \$2,600. I may say that I have been up to the present unable to procure an officer capable of taking charge of a section of the hydrographic survey on the Pacific ocean. There are no qualified officers in Canada. There are qualified officers in England, but we could not get any one of them to take charge of a section at \$2,200. Thus in giving Mr. Stewart \$2,600, we are not extravagant. Mr. Fraser was a graduate of the Royal Military College and is assistant chief engineer. He joined the department in September 1889. His salary is \$2,300. Mr. J. F. Fraser is engineer in charge of aids to navigation and commissioner of lights. These two gentlemen, having the same responsibility, will get the same increase.

Mr. FOSTER. I am quite willing we should get through these civil government estimates to-night, but before attempting, at this time of the session, to make any criticism at all of some \$13,000,000 or \$14,000,000 expenditure, there is something to be said upon the matter. I do not want to have to say that to-night. If the government can take the civil government items and smaller items, I will endeavour to help them to get these items through as rapidly as possible. It is nothing less than an outrage to put \$13,000,000 of estimates upon us at this particular stage. We have had, as an opposition, to stand that sort of thing year in year out. There are only two things to do. We must either have these estimates when we can have a fair and reasonable chance of discussing their merits or demerits, which we would have in an earlier part of the session, or we must take them up at such a juncture as this when we can give them but the merest perfunctory examination. That is not fair to the opposition. We have been promised a remedy over and over again but instead this delay grows worse every

Mr. PREFONTAINE.

year. You want to adjourn next week and to put through \$14,000,000 of estimates between now and then together with all the rest of the legislation which comes before us. There is not an hour within the last three months when the Minister of Militia might not have brought down the re-arrangement of his militia business and his large estimates in that connection and given us a chance to discuss them when we were here in something like a normal condition. He has chosen not to do it. He has absented himself from the House and not taken much part in its business; and now, within two or three days of the end of the session, he comes down with a proposition which makes an entire change in our militia system and involves an addition of \$3,000,000 or more to our yearly expenditure. This and many more matters of legislation are simply held over and brought in the last two or three of the dog days of the session. Now, that is not fair; it is not right. In the interest of good business, I think the government ought to make a volte face on this subject and make us an absolute promise to do this kind of thing no longer. However, we must have a discussion of this question. If the minister wants to take it up to-night all right. But if he prefers, we can take up less important items and make progress in them, taking up the other discussion on Monday.

Mr. FIELDING. I do not think there is anything 'outrageous' in these proceedings. I think we can challenge comparison with the record of my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) himself as to the manner of bringing down supplementary estimates. If it were of practical value to enter into such a discussion, I could furnish evidence that the hon. gentleman is not in a position to volunteer advice to us on that question. However, I have not the disposition, nor are the atmospheric conditions favourable, to a discussion of that nature. I accept the hon. gentleman's suggestion. He shall have ample opportunity to discuss these items. In the meantime, we may take up civil service and other small items, the other votes to which he referred standing over until the next sitting of the House.

Charges of management—Assistant Receiver General's office:

Toronto, further amount required, \$500; Halifax, further amount required, \$600; St. John, further amount required, \$700; Charlottetown, further amount required, \$500; Winnipeg, further amount required, \$1,050; Victoria, further amount required, \$700; additional amount for printing Dominion notes, \$20,000; additional amount required in connection with the issue and redemption of Dominion notes, \$5,000, \$23,050.

Mr. FIELDING. These votes for assistant Receiver General's offices are taken, not with a view to the distribution necessary to be made, but to permit the department to revise the salary lists in the assistant