

Department, whenever vacancies occur, should be followed in every instance, and in no case should be departed from. They find, too, that in these Provinces new offices have been opened by the Post Office Department, and it is considered extremely desirable that one system should prevail throughout the whole Dominion. Your Commissioners are of the opinion that the transfers would be productive of efficiency as well as economy in this part of the service.

Before leaving this branch of the expenditure, your Commissioners are pleased to find that a saving will be effected in the charges for printing Dominion notes, arising from the fact, as they are informed, that a new contract has been entered into, whereby the country will save money.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

The expenditure for Civil Government is the next in order. But as this has been fully dealt with in another report, in which this service formed the chief topic, your Commissioners have only to note that the main source of the increase in the vote for Civil Government arises from the annual statutory increases of salary authorized by the Civil Service Act, and that there does not appear to be any disposition to increase the staff. In fact in some cases the staff has been reduced. Your Commissioners further notice that it is proposed to decrease the amounts expended for contingencies of the several departments.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

The cost of the administration of justice will apparently amount to \$750,000 for the ensuing year. Of this sum \$670,000, in round numbers, is required for the salaries and allowances of judges throughout the Dominion. The sum to be voted, \$81,000, is chiefly made up of the sum required for miscellaneous expenditure, including North-West Territories, for travelling and circuit allowances, for the salaries and travelling expenses of the official referees, and also for the salaries and disbursement of the staff, excluding the judges, of the Supreme and Exchequer Courts of Canada.

It does not appear that any saving can be made in these services, as they are largely automatic in character, and the expenditures do not apparently require any further supervision than that now given them. It may be stated that the salaries portion of the expenditure is now paid out under the direction of the Finance Department on pay receipts, which, when duly filled up and receipted, the banks are authorized in each case to cash.

DOMINION POLICE.

The management of the Dominion Police, for which service a vote of \$22,000 is asked, is exercised by the Department of Justice. The force is not a very large one, and the expenditure, almost wholly made up of the pay and clothing of the force, calls for no remark.

PENITENTIARIES.

With regard to this service, your Commissioners, owing to the fact that the Auditor General for the past few years has not shown in his report the *per capita* cost of maintenance at each of the penitentiaries, are unable to point out whether in any of the penitentiaries there is a want of supervision. They are glad to mention, however that in the case of one of the institutions—the Kingston Penitentiary—where some of the outlays can be compared with similar services in the same place of other departments, the expenditure for the items of a like character is less for the penitentiary than for the other services.

Your Commissioners find that the supplies for the several penitentiaries are purchased locally, and they would suggest for the consideration of the Government whether those supplies that are not of a perishable character, such as, for example, currants,