

number of clerks, at salaries which had been unanimsously voted, to attend to with proper care to the double business.

Dr. Parker said he was very glad to hear they had a model Government in Ontario, and that employees there had now nothing to do; but that was readily accounted for, as all the members of that Government were away from their places—three being present in the House that night. (Laughter). He was prepared to support the dismissal of all unnecessary employees in that House, but the Committee had gone wrongly to work. There was no principle to their proposition. The great fault in this country seemed to him that the employees of Parliament all commenced at too high a figure, whereas some of the old employees really received too little remuneration. As to retrenchment, the idea was a good one, but what was the paltry retrenchment proposed in this little matter? He could not vote for such a report.

Hon. Mr. Tilley said that though he did not fully agree with the report, yet he would support it as a step in the right direction, and he hoped every honourable gentleman in the House desirous of seeing economy introduced would do likewise. As to the statement that by adopting the report, men who had been 20 and 30 years in the employ of that legislature would be thrown on the cold charity of the world, that was not the case, these men had not been that length of time in the service of the Dominion. (Hear, hear). And the Dominion was under no obligation whatever to employ them. (Hear). There could be no doubt that they had more employees than they required; and that being the case, they had, of course, to dispense with their services and save the money. He was astonished to hear the honourable member for Centre Wellington, who would be supposed to have been one of the foremost to have supported retrenchment speak against it. (Hear, hear). He (Mr. Tilley) hoped the report would be sustained.

Mr. T. R. Ferguson did not believe that any honourable gentleman voting against this commencement of retrenchment would, when he went back to his constituents, be greatly thanked for the manner in which all the talk about economy had been followed up by him. The arguments against reduction of salaries which they had heard that night, had long been sufficient to maintain them in the old Province at their extravagant standard, but there had at last come a fair opportunity for [Mr. Chauveau (Quebec Country).]

retrenchment, and it would not do to let it go by. The removal of private business to the Local Legislatures had greatly diminished the duties of that Chamber, and the economy observed at Toronto was a fair example for them to follow, and he trusted that the Government would support the committee with all their influence.

Mr. Chamberlin considered the objections to comment upon the report or support of the amendment as being most unfair. He could not conceive the object of going into Committee of the Whole, except to give an opportunity for such emendations. He had every confidence in the Committee, but still more so in the Speaker, who should have some authority left in his hands, as being better acquainted with the qualifications of his employees than, as the Committee themselves confessed, any of that body. It was most improper to speak of a small gratuity to an officer, summarily dismissed, as a pension. It had been made a kind of technical objection against the just acknowledgment of the claims of the public servants, that they had not been employed under the Dominion Legislature, but they had spent long years in the service of the people of the country, from whom they could scarcely have expected ingratitude.

Hon. Mr. Smith contended that the employees of the old Province could have no claim upon Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, and with regard to the necessity for such a staff, as the present, considered that the first session of the Confederate Parliament had brought an exceptional amount of labour.

Hon. Mr. Huntington defended himself from the imputation of having sneered at the labours of the Committee, to whom he gave all credit for candid and earnest enquiry. He admitted that the employees of the old Legislative Assembly had no legal claim on the new House of Commons, but they had undoubtedly worked in the service of the country, and, where they had to deal with them at all, they should deal liberally. His main objection to the proposed reduction was that it indiscriminately affected everybody, deservedly or undeservedly, and he entirely disputed the justice or expediency of curtailing the well merited salaries of their most efficient officers. After going on to speak in high terms of the merits of the Clerk and the Sergeant-at-Arms, he pointed out that they had been appointed by the Government before the meeting of Parliament, and so far