

take a large amount, to save the trouble of constant application. The quantity furnished in advance of the requirements is larger than usual.

[By Hon. Mr. *Foley*.]

*Ques.* 16. By what authority were these accounts of Mr. *Footc*'s paid, and by whom audited before payment? Describe the usual mode of presenting, auditing, and paying such accounts, and how done, with respect to these accounts?—*Ans.* Mr. *Footc*'s accounts were examined and certified in the same manner as the others; and as to the mode, I beg to refer to my answer to the first question.

On motion of Mr. *White*, it was

*Ordered*, That Mr. *Thomas Ross*, Accountant of Contingencies, be summoned to appear before this Committee forthwith.

[By Mr. *White*.]

*Ques.* 17. Is it true that the quantity of Stationery supplied by Mr. *Footc* lately did not create alarm for the stability of the building, when stored in your Department? and did you not find it necessary to obtain the services of competent persons to inspect the building as to its security, and what was the result of such inspection?—*Ans.* When certain repairs were made on the building some years ago, it was ascertained that the joists were in places much injured by dry rot, and as we have not space in the lower part of the building for many heavy cases containing old records, they have been placed in the attics; and shortly after we took possession of the building the floors sunk a little, and we had the building examined by an officer of the Department of Public Works, who was of opinion that the partitions would sustain the floors from further sinking, but the clerks are not without apprehension as to the safety of the floors, and one of them did express his alarm at the addition of the Stationery received from Mr. *Footc*. I examined the room, and did not think it necessary to request an inspection.

On motion of Mr. *Street*, it was

*Ordered*, That the proceedings of the Committee, up to the present time, be printed, and that henceforth the further proceedings be daily printed for the use of the Members of the Committee.

[By Colonel *Haultain*.]

*Ques.* 18. When recommending or sanctioning the payment of Mr. *Footc*'s bill, did you draw the attention of the Commissioner of the Department to the character of the charges made?—*Ans.* When Mr. *Footc* sent in his first account, I drew the attention of the Commissioner to the fact that some of his charges were higher than those of the Queen's Printer, and suggested that as none of the employés have the requisite knowledge of the Stationery and Printing business to enable them to audit the account, I should be allowed to submit the account and the question of audit to the Auditor of Public Accounts, which he approved, and I accordingly wrote the letter referred to in my answer to the first question.

*Ques.* 19. Can you state when Mr. *Footc*, the proprietor of the *Morning Chronicle*, first commenced supplying the Departments with Stationery?—*Ans.* In November, 1860.

*Thomas Ross*, Esquire, Paymaster of Contingencies, called in and Examined.

[By Mr. *White*.]

*Ques.* 20. When were you appointed to audit the accounts of the various Departments, and under what authority, and what are your duties?—I was appointed in June, 1858, Paymaster of the Contingencies, under the authority of an Order of Council. I never had