

understand that at present there is no officer who can assume the control of public works which heretofore were carried on by the Department of Public Works. As it is contemplated to transfer to my Department the conduct of certain public works, it is necessary for me to provide a staff capable of carrying on those works. The only appointment which I can strike off is that of a first-class clerk, at \$1,800, but the \$1,100 for a third class clerk and the \$800 must remain.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I would like to know whether this transfer of part of the public works of the country to the Militia Department has been made by Order in Council or under authority of an Act of Parliament. The Act constituting the Militia Department, I do not think authorizes anything of this sort.

Mr. BLAKE. This is, of course, a question of policy which, so far as I remember, has been settled by an Act of Parliament. We have frequently discussed the advantage of having a united management of all the public works under one office. So recently as last Session and the Session before, it was stated that we must go further in this direction, and the Minister of Public Works took charge of the heating of all the buildings. It was said it was important to have them concentrated in the charge of one Department. Now, here we find a plan for the creation of new military buildings, which, with their repairs, are to be handed over to the Militia Department. If so, why should not the Justice Department take charge of the repairs of the penitentiaries, &c.? Why should not the Customs Department take charge of the Customs houses, and the Post Office Department take charge of the post offices, and so on? Is there anything so very peculiar in the military buildings that it requires my hon. friend's knowledge of architecture to get these made ready, and his knowledge of accounts and of estimates to assure absolute accuracy of the fulfilment of these works? If it is something personal to my hon. friend, we would all bow with submission; but it is a general question of policy to be adopted.

Mr. CARON. I do not think the hon. gentleman is discussing the question from the right point of view. He is comparing the post offices and Customs houses to repairs of fortifications, for instance. The hon. gentleman must admit that there is a very great difference between those matters and keeping up important military works, which may have cost enormous sums of money—not to Canada, but which have been transferred to Canada. It is necessary that these works should be carried on by some one possessing special knowledge of military works. In England, as the hon. gentleman knows well, and in every other country, these military works form a special Department, under charge of a person possessing special qualifications. It may not be necessary to have so large a Department in Canada, or so skilful officers, but it is necessary for us, in keeping up these military works, to have them under the control of a specialist, and it is for that purpose that they have been transferred to my Department. Although the hon. gentlemen may criticise my expression of opinion on a subject of that kind, I may say that the experience of the past, both in the Department of Public Works and in that of the Militia, has shown that these military works were not carried on as well as they would have been had they been under the control of a person possessing special qualifications and who might supervise these important defensive works which we have in Canada. That is the reason which induced the Government to transfer, by Order in Council, public works appertaining to the Militia Department, instead of leaving them under the control of the Department of Public Works.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I should like to know where the Order in Council is.

Mr. BLAKE. If the hon. gentleman will bring down the Order in Council before Concurrence, and allow full opportunity to discuss this item, it may be allowed to pass. This, however, is an important question of policy, and I should like to see the Order in Council before Concurrence.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. As regards the fortifications at Quebec, Kingston and other places, ordinary architects, however skilful they may be in erecting Custom houses, are quite inefficient in building walls to resist an attack. In the case of the Marine and Fisheries, the Department erects all the lighthouses, except very large, permanent stone buildings. The Order in Council will be brought down.

Mr. BLAKE. The First Minister has declared that the military authorities hold that a specialist is required for this purpose. If the hon. Minister of Militia had retained the item for an architect, I could have understood it, but the hon. gentleman struck out the item for a specialist.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The reason can easily be explained: The hon. Minister was anxious to economise. He thinks he can obtain the services of Col. Hewitt, a distinguished engineer, who is at the head of the Royal Military College, to look after the fortifications for a time. If it is found necessary, afterwards, to have a military architect, an item will be placed in the Estimates.

Mr. MACKENZIE. There have been no new walls or bastions built recently, and all that is necessary is to maintain the old works.

Mr. BLAKE. I hope the hon. Minister of Public Works will rise in defence of his Department.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am always ready to defend my Department.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am aware, from personal knowledge, that Col. Hewitt, and the other officers, are a hard working set of men, who have plenty to do in performing the work properly belonging to them.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There are no new permanent fortifications. All that is required is to maintain the present works.

Mr. MACKENZIE. There have been no new works constructed since 1846. The same system of carrying out repairs has been pursued for many years.

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Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. There are some alterations here, and apparently an addition in the Queen's printer's branch. The other items seem to have been somewhat reduced.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. The change is due to the promotion of an officer who received \$1,100; but there is a reduction by the appointment of one third-class clerk at \$400.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Who is the gentleman promoted?

Mr. CHAPLEAU. Mr. Mousseau.

Mr. MILLS. I desire to invite the attention of the Secretary of State and the Finance Minister to the cost of this Department. In 1878 the amount asked for, including cost of Mounted Police grant, was \$31,990, or about \$29,000 for the Department. Over \$43,000 are asked for 1881. The Finance Minister publicly stated, when out of office, that the amount expended by the Government was too large by at least \$1,000,000. In connection with the Department, the number of employees has increased from twenty-five, in 1878, to thirty-nine in 1884, and there are at present forty-two. This is one of the Departments in which the work does not grow very rapidly; except in the matter of registration of deeds, there is no more work there than formerly. In the present