

Public Departments, and the Speaker of the Legislative Council. I shall be allowed a remark or two in reference to one or two items on this list. One of those items, the largest of all, \$48,960.16 is for the Crown Lands. Well, I admit this amount strikes one as large. It is large, relatively to those for the other departments. And there is taken from it a small amount that formerly stood at the debit of this department; because a few of its employees are performing a special service to which I have charged their salaries. But the Crown Lands is a pretty expensive Department. The House will remember this Department is one we had to take from the Dominion at Ottawa. It bears on the establishment several gentlemen, old servants of the Department, whose salaries under the Civil Service Act had grown even beyond the ordinary Ottawa scale. They came to us, and we had to determine whether we would refuse to take them, or any considerable number of them, or cut down their salaries in a manner which, suddenly done, might have been cruelty; because some of those gentlemen are old and very faithful public servants. (Cheers.) We were in this position; we had to carry on the public service, and it was impossible for us to tell, till we had mastered its affairs ourselves, whether this establishment, which a great many people say is overweighted, is so or not. We felt compelled to take the Department as it stood. We have practised, however, more than one economy in it. Two vacancies have occurred since we took it, and neither has been filled up. [Cheers.] In connection with this Department, some other economies have also been practised. We will lose no opportunity of effecting any economy that is at all fair. Wherever we can place in any other department a servant who can so be better employed than at present, we shall do so. But we felt it our duty not to yield to what may be an unreasonable or unfounded clamor for a reduction of salaries, as against men who were thrown on us, and who have served the country a long time, and of whose abilities we were bound to make the best use we could. We have not given to any of our new deputy heads of departments, a salary of more than \$1800. That is as nearly as may be the three-fourths of the ordinary unaugmented salary appertaining to that class of functionaries at Ottawa. We did not think we could go below that figure. We did not believe we could obtain efficient servants without paying about that figure. We have encountered refusal to accept that sum, from men of the calibre we should like for deputy heads of departments. Such men can get more than this salary elsewhere. The time is not distant, I believe, when we shall have to pay more salary to efficient public servants. Few of our other employees have salaries near so high. And incidentally, I may be allowed to mention a single circumstance which I think may go a little way with members of the House to undo the impression that we are paying enormous salaries. I have in my own department secured a body of as efficient servants as I could. Among them was a gentleman from one of the departments at Ottawa, of whom I thought a good deal. He was engaged at a salary of \$1200. He had not been long with me, however, when he requested me to release him, saying—I have just had an offer from the Treasury Department of Ontario which is considerably better than yours. He went to that department at a higher salary; and yet it is said we are paying the highest salaries. Thus I lost the services of a gentleman whom I believed a good officer, because I did not pay him as much as others offered. I secured in his place the services of another gentleman of marked ability, at the