

to secure can only be obtained on certain conditions, which it may be for the public interest to accept. There can be no doubt that public opinion is sufficiently powerful to prevent any unnecessary expenditure of public money by the separation of offices which may be conveniently united. The salary attached to the office of Governor-General must, in the opinion of the Committee of Council be looked upon in a wholly different light from all other charges on the Civil List; although the Committee of Council, in view of the circumstances under which the Act granting a Civil List to Her Majesty was passed, and considering that Act as a sacred engagement on the part of the people of Canada to pay the amount stipulated during a specified period of time, could not recommend any legislative action in this country until the subject had been brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Imperial Government, yet the Committee have entertained no doubt that without reference to their opinion as to the expediency of the change, Her Majesty's Government would offer no opposition to such retrenchment as the Canadian Legislature should determine on, with reference to the salaries of Her Majesty's servants in Canada subordinate to her Representative. But with regard to the Governor-General, the case is entirely different; and however strongly it may be urged that the Canadian Legislature have the right to determine the amount of all salaries chargeable on their revenue, the Committee of Council are of opinion that nothing could have tended more to create a serious misunderstanding with the Imperial Government than the adoption of any proposition for the reduction of the Governor-General's salary, without previous consultation with Her Majesty's Government. Such consultation would, under any circumstances, have been a mere act of courtesy; but when it is considered that the salary has been voted for the life of the Queen and an additional term of years, its omission would have been not only an act of discourtesy, but a breach of faith. The Committee of Council could not, therefore, have recommended any action on this subject without previous reference to Her Majesty's Government. With regard to the salary itself, it must be obvious that perpetual discussion regarding its amount, is calculated to impair the dignity of the Queen's Representative, and to be a source of constant annoyance to the incumbent of the highest office in the province. It must be sufficiently obvious that no reduction that could be proposed would put an end to agitation on the subject. There will always be advocates of a lower salary than that fixed by law. It might have been reasonably supposed that an Act granting the salary for a fixed period, would have had the effect of preventing any discussion on the subject during that period. But experience proves that no such result can be anticipated. The most prominent advocates of a reduction of this salary during last session, were members of the Government by which it was recommended only a few years before. It seems therefore highly desirable that, if possible, some arrangement regarding this salary should be made, which would entirely remove it from the control of the Provincial Legislature. The Committee of Council are not prepared at present to mention any specific recommendation on the subject, which they feel assured will receive the best consideration of Her Majesty's Imperial Government.

The remaining charges on the revenue during 1849 are for the Printing of the laws, and various miscellaneous charges, most of which are not of a permanent character, and require no particular notice. It may be observed, that various economical changes have already been made in the printing of the laws, and every practicable retrenchment in the printing expenses will be effected.

The Committee of Council having now reviewed the charges on the public revenue, and the various branches of the public expenditure, would recommend your Excellency to bring the subject of the Civil List under the notice of Her Majesty's Government, with the view of obtaining their concurrence to the proposed reductions in the salaries of future judges and of certain officers of the Executive Government, and such reduction of the charge for pensions as may be consistent with the maintenance of the honour of the Crown.

Despatch from the Right Hon. Earl Grey, Secretary of State.

(No. 568.)

No. 1.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Earl GREY to Governor-General the Earl of
ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

My Lord,

Downing Street, March 14, 1851.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 244*, of the 31st of December last, * See p. 2. inclosing a minute of your Executive Council on a report made to the Legislative Assembly during its last session, by a Committee appointed to inquire into the state of the Provincial Income and Expenditure. I have also received the report of the Committee to which the above minute relates. These important