

instant, but that out-  
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 sion. In the question  
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 as only what every  
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 mation Members might  
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 e House would be  
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 Civil List was, he  
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 sment Members, but  
 ere were but twenty-  
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f opinion that the  
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 North America—

That the Province should pay its Civil Governor he readily would admit—but that the Office of Civil Governor and Commander in Chief should be disunited.—The Province, in undertaking to answer for its own Civil Expenditure, never intended to pay any thing like a Military Establishment, nor could he see why the surveillance of the Sister Provinces, by our Governor General, should be paid by Lower-Canada. He might still go on, but he would reserve himself for the subject when it would come regular before the House. He thought the question sufficiently important to require a full House. It was requisite to have a full knowledge of the sense of the Province, and to ascertain what was to be understood by the terms *permanent and growing* expenditure of the Civil Government. These terms were somewhat novel, and they ought to be well and thoroughly understood. He was told of the rigour of the measure with respect to absent members. He thought the absentees entitled to no indulgence, particularly those who had recently absented themselves without leave, who, by right, ought to be put into the custody of the Sergeant at Arms, as a lesson for their future guidance. Upon the whole, he thought it highly expedient, that a call of the House should take place previous to any vote upon a measure which might entail a *permanent and growing* evil upon the Province.

Mr. Vanfelson, was decidedly of opinion, that a call of the House, on a point so important to the Province as the Civil List, ought to take place previous to the adoption of any definitive measures on the subject. With respect to his own opinion on the Civil List, he had but few observations to make. He was disposed to innovate as little as possible, but there certainly were items in that List, which he thought it the duty of that House to scrutinize with the utmost nicety. The contingent accounts loudly called for investigation. Mr. V. instanced the items allowed to the Judges for travelling expenses, which, he said, had been so notoriously a matter of speculation among their honors, as absolutely to lower them in the public estimation. This he would be disposed to retrench entirely. He thought it would even be better to appoint another Judge at Three-Rivers, than allow a pretext for Judges to go thither from Quebec or Montreal, with a view of making a Job of it. He was sorry to say, that this circumstance, had so far been detrimental to the character which Judges ought to enjoy in the public estimation, that he doubted whether their Honors could be considered as disinterested in cases of *public speculation*, if, by any accident, they might be called upon to decide upon such cases. The expenses of Law proceedings on the part of the Crown, he thought another gross abuse. It was proper that one of the Law Officers of the Crown should be paid for business done at Quebec, but to pay an Attorney-General and a Solicitor-General, both resident at Quebec, was, he thought, contrary to all former precedent in this Province. The Solicitor General, heretofore, resided at Montreal, and the residence of that Officer in Quebec, necessarily gave occasion to employ and pay other Law Officers at the former place. This circumstance contributed not a little to increase the contingent expenses of the Province, which it was incumbent upon the House to keep within moderate bounds.

Mr. Borgia—was not, for the present, disposed to enter largely upon the discussion of the Civil List, which, he thought, at the present stage, would be premature. He would reserve his observations, until after a call of the House should be made, which, he thought, was a measure highly necessary. He thought the Civil List not only properly belonged to the Province, but that it was a right which the Province ought strongly to assert. It was the property of the Province, and as such, ought to be paid and vigilantly attended to.

Mr. Taschereau—observed, that the motion for a Call of the House was, as he conceived, unimportant, otherwise than as it tended to prolong the Session, for which he saw no necessity.—He thought the measure was fraught with much inconvenience to Members, without any apparent necessity for troubling them. With regard to the Question to be agitated, he thought it of much importance, (meaning the Civil List) and he could not but oppose the Honorable Member for Huntingdon, on the grounds he had taken with respect to it.—The Honorable Member opposed that measure on principles, and for reasons the most extraordinary.—He had manifested his displeasure that His Excellency the Governor in Chief should have £4500 per annum from the Province.—That so many Idlers should be paid,

who in fact despise the Province on which they feed, and who dash about in tandem, and whip the common people in the streets.—That all these wretches should be reduced.—These were, he thought, the sum and substance of the arguments of the Honorable Member for Huntingdon for a Call of the House, and which were leveled at the Civil List.—These arguments were indeed calculated to make an impression in a certain quarter, without any such intention, on the part of the Hon. Mover.—It was not, however, any wish to court the applause to which he alluded, that had actuated the estimable character who proposed the Civil List in 1810.—That Gentleman, in proposing the Civil List, had earnestly studied the interests of the Province, the honor of his Country, and in a word, the free exercise of the Constitution.—He did not look for popular applause, on the contrary, he studied the interests of the public, even at the expense of his own popularity.—He had, however, received the reward which generally awaited honest men.—His merit had been acknowledged, and popularity, without being sought by him, had, as it were, run in pursuit of him—happy would it be for the Province, if such were the principles of those who had succeeded him.—He, Mr. T. respected the character of that Gentleman, whom he considered as an able Statesman, a profound Politician, and a man experienced in the affairs of the Province.—It was to him the Province owed the first idea of the Civil List, the acquisition of which he considered as a matter of the highest importance, and the Province could not too highly express its acknowledgments to the first mover of that measure.

The Province had, in 1810, solemnly pledged itself for the payment of the Civil List; the House at the commencement of the present Session, had also pledged itself for the accomplishment of that engagement.—What, then, would he said, if this same House should now evince a disposition to retrench?—What faith, or what confidence could Great Britain repose in them? Would it not expose the Canadian Name to the opprobrium of all the Sister Colonies, and destroy for ever their reputation in the opinion of all reflecting persons?—Such conduct, he maintained, would furnish their enemies with arms against them.—The Province had requested to have the Civil List in 1810, from a sense of duty and gratitude towards the Mother Country, and, he knew not why it should not, at the present day, be actuated by the same sentiment.—Members surely were not anxious to involve their Country so far in a charge of inconsistency, as to render it unworthy of the Constitution, and to induce a belief that it was unable to judge of the importance of measures.—If the Commons of Great Britain owe their Influence in the balance of the Constitution to their control upon the Public Purse when every other source of power has failed them.—If that Purse is the only Constitutional means within their power, of securing the weight they ought to maintain in the Constitution, would not Members be guilty of a species of treason against this House, if through motives of apprehension in giving displeasure in a certain quarter, or with a view of seeking popularity, refuse to this same House the importance which by that means it ought to enjoy; it would be in reality to deceive in the most dishonest manner their Constituents, under the specious pretext of serving them. Would it not be the height of selfishness, to degrade the National Character of our Constituents through motives of popularity tending to private advantage?—In making these remarks, he begged it to be clearly understood, that he by no means intended to attack any individual, much less the Hon. Mover, to whose liberality he was disposed to do the most ample justice—he only alluded to measures.—He observed, that the House was by no means called upon to make a new Civil List.—It was a Civil List which had long since subsisted, and which the Province had asked for: it was a List well known to belong exclusively to the Royal Prerogative in this Province as well as in England—but, say you, we do not refuse it, we only mean to retrench from it.—Let us see the consequences of this retrenching system.—Our List amounts to £75,000, of that sum, £25,000 are already provided for by permanent Acts; there remain, therefore, but £50,000. Of this last sum £12,000 are expenses of the Legislature, annually provided for by Acts of Appropriation or Votes of Credit. £10,000 more, go to the maintenance and support of Houses of Correction, Foundlings, Insane and Infirmary People, and other Charitable purposes annually provided for by the Legislature; there therefore remain, but about 18 or £20,000 of this Civil List to be provided for.—Now he would ask if Great Britain ought to be exposed to the insult of seeing this Civil List (for the maintenance of which her honor stands in some measure pledged) torn to pieces, in order to avoid the payment of so paltry a sum? Would the renounce the Important Privilege which she now conferred on us, without requiring some equivalent? If we reduce, as proposed by Gentlemen, the sum in question, this small balance of the Civil List will be reduced to nothing, and we shall be precisely in the same situation in which we formerly were: in other words,