

amount of labor, which should be performed at Emerson, and the postmaster at Emerson should have, at least, two assistants and a proper post office building. I have not the least doubt that the post office is flooded and probably the postmaster has been obliged to take the whole of his mail matter out of the building. Again, you are paying in Winnipeg a very large amount in the shape of salary, whereas the postmaster at Emerson receives a very small compensation. I see by the last returns he simply receives \$645 as a salary, whereas if he had \$1,000 it would be little enough for the work; he is also paid \$100 for forwarding and \$80 for fuel, rent and light. A proper building should be erected in the town for a post office. The large increase in the population and the business done, require a proper building.

Mr. O'CONNOR. The matter will be looked into, and if found convenient and necessary, the changes will be made.

Mr. BUNSTER. I find, on a more careful examination of the Estimates, that the decrease is \$1,200, instead of \$200 in British Columbia. I hope the hon. Postmaster-General will explain why there is such a reduction against British Columbia. If he thinks the population is decreasing, he is mistaken. If he will give better postal facilities it would increase faster than it does. It is really an important matter that the settlers in British Columbia should have proper postal communication, but instead of being encouraged by the Government, by increased facilities, the opposite course is taken at present.

Mr. HUNTINGTON. I desire to make a single observation in a sense which, I am sure, must recommend itself to the mind of every hon. gentleman who has been familiar for the past few years with the question under discussion. The hon. the Finance Minister has shown a gift in the way of comparisons, that does deserve a great deal of credit. I should like to see him compare his party, as it stood on this side of the House, with his party as it stands on the other, in relation to this single Department. When they sat here there were no words too long, no denunciation too deep in regard to the maladministration of that Department, its gross extravagances, its profligate waste of money. These hon. gentlemen went to the people, as it is said they are going before the people now; and I think before they go the hon. Finance Minister should explain why it was that when they came into power they did not check the extravagance of this wastefully conducted Department, get rid of some of the useless employes and change the administration they had so loudly condemned. I have heard the hon. gentleman complain of having words put in his mouth. Though something of a ventriloquist I will not put words in his mouth, but would like him to give utterance to explanations as to how it was that after pursuing this course toward the unfortunate Department, he did not when he came into office carry out the views which his friends and he when in Opposition thought had so much to recommend them. I would like to hear the hon. gentleman admit frankly that when his party got into office they found they had been previously talking about what they did not understand. The hon. Postmaster-General could explain, that when he got there he found it was not so easy to make any change, and that the evils he denounced were purely imaginary. I am not speaking as to whether the increased expenditure under this Administration is justifiable or not, but am simply drawing a comparison between criticism out of office and the conduct in office of hon. gentlemen opposite. If it be really true that they maligned the administration of this important Department, that their position in regard to it was untenable, they should either acknowledge their error, or be able to point to some change of policy which would justify their former attacks.

166. Miscellaneous Printing. \$10,000

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. This item is made up of printing Budget Speech in English, \$344; in French, \$133, and Parliamentary reports \$8,721.

Mr. McDOUGALL (Halton). This item affords a favorable opportunity for me to make a remark which I make for the benefit of all parties concerned, as we are told that we are to go before the people very soon. I confess that there was some force in some remarks made by the hon. gentleman who spoke from the other side of the House with reference to claims which are put forth at elections by political parties and aspirants to the confidence of the people, because they promise if they get into power to effect great economy in the public expenditure. I confess that for myself at the last General Election I did arraign hon. gentlemen opposite for having, during the five years of their Administration, failed to carry out those pledges with respect to the public expenditure and reforms in the administration of the public service, which they had led the people to believe would be carried out; and, Sir, the gentlemen who opposed them, the party of the then Opposition, on their own behalf, and I, as a supporter of the policy which they then professed, on their behalf also, did arraign the Government of the day for their failure to carry out their promises to the people to make those reforms, which seemed to me necessary to the circumstances of the country. I must say that I have the same feeling of regret that hon. gentlemen upon the Treasury benches have not devoted themselves more earnestly towards effecting administrative reforms. They have carried through some very important measures, they have had matters of great public concern to deal with, and so far as these are concerned I have no fault to find. I feel that their pledges have been redeemed, that the promises made in behalf of that party have been, to a large extent, accomplished, but in the administrative department of the Government I do not see that activity, that zeal and that desire to remove admitted evils, and to effect promised reforms, which I had hoped and expected from them. Having said so much, I will call the attention of the members of the Administration to the state of the public printing, to the manner in which that printing is accomplished, to the enormous expense, and to the delays which occur in the execution of the public printing. Some years ago, before Confederation, it was proposed to remedy the difficulties we had experienced in that Department by establishing a Government printing office, and on the occasion of a visit to Washington in connection with the Post Office Department and some other matters, I was instructed by the Government to make enquiries into the system which prevailed there. I discovered that after trying the contract system for a number of years, and after trying various modifications of that system, Congress had discovered there was only one method by which the public printing could be satisfactorily performed, and they established a public printing office under the control of a public officer; and any hon. gentleman who chooses to go into the library and examine the public documents for a series of years prior to the establishment of a Government printing office, will see what a great reform was effected in the character of the printing, in the binding, and in all those branches which belong to that department, and they will see also, by an examination of the Public Accounts with respect to the public printing, that there was a great saving of expense. It struck me at the time that a great benefit was obtained in consequence of the efficiency and the promptitude with which the printing was done. The manager of the printing establishment called my attention to the delay that had occurred at the meeting of Congress, from the reports of the various Departments and the public documents that it was necessary for Congress to consider, not being in a position to