

Mr. Dufresne said he would give all his support to change the old order of things for a better one. He believed the present officers of the House to be efficient but they were decidedly too numerous. He for one could cordially support the report, believing it to be an expression on the Government's desire for retrenchment, every employee of the House came at once, on his appointment, to consider himself a pensioner of the country, and hence honourable gentlemen were pursued by scores of office-seekers. He had never countenanced these men and never intended to do so, and now that there was an opportunity of immediate retrenchment, he was glad to see the Government making a vigorous move in this direction. Unquestionably, if a reduction of this expense was not arrived at, the Provinces would drift into legislative union. For his part he trusted the Government would continue in this good work as they had begun.

Mr. Mackenzie thought it absolutely necessary to maintain the standing committee on contingencies in the matter. However, honourable gentlemen might differ as to remunerating the services of certain of the officers, something must be conceded to the committee presided over by the able Provincial Secretary. That committee had laboured to produce an efficient report on the administration of the House, and if the honourable gentlemen did not approve of every part of their reports, still he thought they were bound to accept the report and sustain the committee in endeavouring to bring the new system to perfection. He trusted a great deal to the sense of the House to remedy any error that might unintentionally be made by the committee in preparing their report and regarding what had been said by an honourable gentleman about the Premier of Ontario, he (Mr. Mackenzie) did not understand the member for Cornwall to object to the report; though that honourable gentleman did not quite agree with some of the report, he would not be found voting against it. There were undoubtedly officers connected with the House who would do credit to any place or profession, and with some of them he sympathized; but for all that, the salaries were pretty large and liberal, and though the House might not agree in every part of the report, he thought this a case in which they ought to agree with the committee, and for his part he did so with his whole heart, believing that any mistakes they might make

could be easily remedied by the House. But as sure as this report was lost, so sure would they be compelled to maintain every extravagance connected with the former Parliament of Canada. (Hear). The amendment to the Bill, if carried, would perpetuate a gross injustice. What right had that Parliament to impose pensions on all the Provinces? Besides, there were some eight or ten clerks who had not yet performed three months' service, and one only two weeks, although he had drawn his salary for the former period by power of attorney. (Laughter.) These clerks would receive a year's pension for three months' service.

Mr. Casault—Those discharged by the Speaker.

Mr. Mackenzie could only say, if the report was adopted, he hoped the Speaker would not perpetrate the gross injustice of retaining the newest clerks and discharging the oldest ones. In conclusion, the honourable gentleman strongly urged the adoption of the report.

Hon. Mr. Chauveau defended the economic administration of Quebec from the imputations with which it had been assailed, and stated that it was not large payments of salaries that would bring any of the Provinces into a deficit, but rather large undertakings under the name of public works, but really taken up to forward private interests. It was this that had brought Ontario into debt, and its absence that left to Quebec a surplus. He said that it was a shabby thing to propose a lower rate of pay to the officials of the great Dominion, which had been so loudly extolled, than they had previously received from the old Province of Canada. It was absurd to argue upon mere abstract principles devoid of human consideration, which only went to prove as usual that the *summum jus* was the *summa injuria*. He thought that if the Dominion was too poor to pay the normal salaries, they ought at least to postpone the reductions until each should fall upon a new incumbent. There were here a number of gentlemen proposed to be thrown overboard—so many Jonahs to appease a supposed popular prejudice—and he contended that the odium of their selection should not have been imposed on the Speaker. The good feeling which everywhere prevailed in Quebec was ample compensation for the care of his Administration for the interests of people of both races, and the employment of a sufficient