

statesman has said, there can be no true economy without real efficiency. We have here a very efficient staff of messengers and I think it is false economy by any quirk or quibble or by taking advantage of any previous understanding to make a reduction in this way. I think we ought to settle this question so as to give these men what is fair and right. We have been served here night and day and we have been running at high pressure for some time, and it is only fair that these efficient officers should be remunerated for their services.

Mr. FRASER. I wish to add a word to what has already been said. I think perhaps we may make a mistake in not recognizing that when work is well done it ought to be well paid. We have been voting millions for the last few days. That is all right. I do not think we can get any men to come here from a distance and do the work of these officers and remunerate them fairly with less than \$250. I think every member who has come here knows that \$250 would not be very much toward allowing him to get away in a decent way. If we bring these men here we ought to pay them fair wages. There is much in what the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. LaRivière) says. As to the expectation of the length of the session and as there are not so many of these men as to cause a deficit, I would be in favour of giving them \$250.

Mr. MULOCK. It is to be remembered also that you cannot put a stranger into this House at a moment's notice and get good service from him. These messengers, though they do unskilled work in a sense, have to be familiar with the run of the building, the offices and the departments and to have a good deal of local knowledge. Therefore it is in the public interest that the same men should be continued. If they are to be treated in the same way as ordinary day labourers the same efficient service cannot be expected. I quite agree with what has fallen from others that not less than \$250 should be paid to these officers.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think the hon. the Speaker will soften his heart on behalf of these messengers. They have certainly done very good service, and I do not think there are any men about the Parliament buildings who work harder or who earn their money more faithfully than these men have done. I do not wish to argue with the Speaker but I simply appeal to soften his heart towards these officers.

Mr. SPEAKER. The House knows what my opinion is with regard to this matter; I have never concealed it. But after the expression of opinion by hon. members of the House, I shall certainly bring this matter before the Committee of Internal Economy. I am not going to say what they will do. I make this promise upon one condition and that is that members of the House shall not

poster me with applications for appointments to the position of messengers hereafter.

Contingent Expenses, etc., in connection with Voters' Lists.... \$2,500

Mr. LAURIER. What is this?

Mr. FOSTER. This is for by-elections.

Mr. LAURIER. But there are no lists for by-elections.

Mr. FOSTER. The Auditor-General said it would be necessary to have this for odds and ends. He is the bible now.

World's Columbian Exposition--
Additional amount required... \$70,000

Mr. LAURIER. How much is the appropriation for that exposition this year?

Mr. FOSTER. This will make the total appropriation about \$190,000.

To enable the Dairy Commissioner to make purchases of cheese and butter at the several experimental stations, the proceeds of the sales of such purchases to be placed at the credit of the consolidated revenue fund..... \$36,000

Mr. FOSTER. This is to enable Professor Robertson to start the experimental dairies which he runs for the first year, taking the milk from the farmer and making them advances upon the butter that is made and marketed. After the expenses are paid, the remainder goes to the farmers. This is simply for financing the matter. In order to make the advances, he must have some money out of which to make them. All this will come back into the Treasury during the course of the year. This is for the experimental stations, chiefly in Prince Edward Island.

Mr. McMILLAN. I have great objections to purchasing butter or cheese except what is made at the experimental stations.

Mr. FOSTER. Not a pound is to be purchased outside.

Military defence of Esquimalt.
B.C. \$70,000

Mr. PATTERSON (Huron). This item is for the purpose of carrying out an arrangement with the Imperial Government for the fortification of Esquimalt. The understanding is that the Canadian Government purchase the sites and furnish a fixed sum of money to the Imperial Government, and the fortifications and submarine works are to be constructed by the Imperial Government. It is thought that it is a better plan than to build the fortifications and construct the submarine works by the Canadian Government, and as they will then be subject to the supervision of the Royal Engineers, it might entail great additional expense if they should vary their plans from time to time. The Imperial Government furnish the most modern armaments, at a value of £42,000.