

kind differ from a vote of credit in little but one important particular ; they will furnish me with a proper basis on which to prepare one of the most important books of my department, the appropriation ledger. When the House shall have passed these estimates, I shall be able to cause to be written down in this ledger the amounts that go to the credit of every service, and every sub-head of service ; and by the action of the Legislature, supplemented by such orders in Council as may be necessary, we shall be able to lay down a rule, beyond which no particular service, can in any particular time, be able to spend money without check, or beyond the proper amount. That is the difference between what I propose and a vote of credit. My plan will give me a better start in business at this time, and a far better basis for the more full, exact and correct estimates, which I trust to be able to lay before the House another time.

I will now go over the estimates ; though not in the exact order in which they are printed. I begin with legislation, which covers several items on the paper. The total is a large figure, \$158,392.90. This is for the 18 months ; but I must freely state the item does not include what may be the contingent and sessional expenses of the next session of the Legislature. It contains a large estimate for the whole of this session, and all the staff ; and I hope the vote will be large enough to cover some portion of the expenses of next session. I did not care to swell these estimates by a large sum for next session, because I felt there was no danger in omitting them ; from the fact that the House itself will be in session, and so can be called on for any outlay necessary. There can be no improper, no unparliamentary advance. Any outlay that may be required will be covered by a vote of the House. Besides that, the rule of sessional allowance not being definitively adopted, except for this session, I considered it right to take my figure for the present year's sessional allowance merely. I have taken \$8,000 for the Parliamentary Library. About \$3,000 have been expended already. In connection with this whole legislative item, I desire to refer to the recommendation of our own Contingencies Committee. They have urged the utmost possible amount of economy. As I have stated already, I am no advocate for mean parsimony or niggardly payment ; but I do believe in not employing more persons than we want, and in not incurring any expenditure that can be avoided ; and I am glad to have the opportunity of stating, that as to the vote of the House on the Contingencies Report, the Government entered entirely into their feeling ; and in reference to the disbursement of those moneys, as of all others, wherever it is possible to practise an economy not prejudicial to the performance of the public service, that economy shall be faithfully practised. (Loud cheers.) I turn now to the beginning of the estimates, taking the first ; for Civil Government. Under this head, mention of the different departments is given. I shall shortly place in the hands of members a sufficient explanation of the way in which those sums are come at. The total amount for Civil Government is \$180,966.86 ; this is for the 18 months, less the small fraction of time during which we had no establishments at all. I do not go now, but when in Committee of Supply will go more into the details of the different sums submitted. The items are for the Lieutenant Governor's office, the Provincial Secretary's Department, the Provincial Registrar's, the Crown Law, Treasury, Crown Lands, Public Works and Agriculture, Executive Council, Contingencies of the

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