

not tell us why this large number of officers is now necessary that was not necessary last year. We ought to know what these gentlemen are to-day, and why they are more necessary now than they were last year.

Mr. MOUSSEAU. We are asking for \$12,000 to provide for the cost of obtaining stamps and for the stamping of imported and Canadian tobacco, under the provisions of 43 Victoria, chapter 19; also to pay for travelling expenses of the instructors.

178. Weights, Measures and Gas ..... \$83,350 00

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. We were told that there was going to be an immense economy in this business, and I perceive that we are within a fraction of the amount expended under the old system, under which we received much more in the way of fees than we are receiving at present. If you make allowance for diminished receipts, you will find that we are expending, over and above what we receive, just as much as we expended before.

Mr. MOUSSEAU. In 1878-9 you appointed 94 inspectors of weights and measures; we have this year only 71.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. In other words, the impudent farce which was played two years ago is now developing itself. By Act of Parliament, just as good men as we now have were turned out on the pretence of economy, and the economy is now developing itself into an expenditure of \$83,000. I do not doubt that next year it will be \$93,000, and the next year \$103,000. The whole powers of Parliament were prostituted to turn out these men in order that a number of new appointments might be made, and we now see the result.

193. To pay George Levegne arrears of salary as caretaker of the wharf, lighthouse and gate at River Ouelle, 20th September, 1870, to 1st March, 1874, and for disbursements made by him.....\$211 50

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT asked an explanation of this.

Mr. LANGEVIN said he was employed all that time and never presented his account. His claim was looked into and was found to be correct.

Mr. LAURIER. Why was he removed in 1874?

Mr. LANGEVIN. The wharf was leased to a tow-boat company, and his services were no longer required.

194. Post Offices. .... \$1,943,500 00

In answer to Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT,

Mr. LANGEVIN gave details of the increases required for the operation of the service in the different Provinces.

Mr. BOURBEAU. Mr. Speaker, the parishes of St. Cyrille, in the County of Drummond, Saint Valère, Saint Albert and Sainte Clothilde, have asked the hon. Postmaster-General through me, for a mail service three times a week; these last named parishes were the first to be created in the County of Arthabaska. It is true that there are but few stores in those parishes, but there is a large lumber trade, especially in winter, with merchants from Québec, Three Rivers, Nicolet and other places. These merchants are often obliged to send messengers for a distance of 18 miles, in order to get to the Arthabaska Post Office. I regret to have to say that he refused to grant this just request. I am glad to be able to make the request in the House, because I told the hon. Postmaster-General that I would not trouble him any more. I hope that the hon. Minister of Public Works, who thoroughly understands the interests of the Province of Quebec, better perhaps than the present hon. Postmaster-General, will grant the request of these four parishes, for I have not the intention of again applying to the Postmaster General. Too much economy is perhaps exercised in the Counties of Drummond and

Arthabaska, and perhaps the money spent elsewhere might make the population of these counties jealous. To be just, one should not economize in one county, and spend in the other. The Counties of Drummond and Arthabaska are two counties represented by one member, and they do not enjoy the same advantages as other counties; the member representing those two counties should have at least as much patronage as that allowed to a deputy representing but a single county. As I represent two counties, I should at least receive the same patronage as other deputies, but I regret to have to say that I am far from having my share of it.

Mr. LANDRY. I take advantage of the circumstance to ask the Minister of Public Works, who is here representing the Postmaster-General, if it has been quite settled that the various documents, reports and forms indorsed by the Post Office Department, and sent to the different postmasters in our rural districts, are to be in French. I ask the same question of the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence.

Mr. LANGEVIN. In answer to the hon. member for Drummond and Arthabaska, I must point out to him how wrong it is for him to have said that he would again call on the Postmaster-General. He must see that if so far he has not succeeded, it is because the Postmaster-General needs further explanations; were he to go and see him again, and give him further explanations, he would gain his point, and I consequently would advise him to call once more. I am certain that when I shall have told him what has just taken place, he will reconsider the matter, and will grant what is asked for, if there is a possibility of doing so.

Mr. BOURBEAU. If the hon. Minister of Public Works will give me the assurance that he will be more courteous, I am ready to call again on him.

Mr. LANGEVIN. The hon. member cannot understand that Ministers are but men, and that often a Minister is tired and has not the time to receive all those who call on him. Those who call on him are often members of Parliament, but when seven, eight, ten, or twelve follow one another during the course of the same morning, a Minister may get tired, and not receive every one with the same courtesy. But the hon. member may be sure that the Postmaster-General, who is a most courteous man, did not intend to receive him uncourteously, and that he will be perfectly well treated should he call again. With regard to economy in the Counties of Drummond and Arthabaska, the hon. member need not fear that the Government seeks to economize except where it is necessary, and we have not the intention of economizing in that county more than in any other. With regard to the question put by the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. Landry), I know that it is the intention of the Postmaster-General that the documents sent to French Canadian postmasters and officials shall be in French; it has always been done; there may have been a misunderstanding, but such is the intention. I made note of the matter in order to put it before the Postmaster-General.

Mr. HESSON. The expenditure for the Post Office service appears to be very considerably increased. I am satisfied, however, that there is no expenditure from which the public receive greater advantage. I believe there will be no illiberality displayed by the House in regard to voting what is necessary to maintain this service effective. I know from long experience how much the people value postal facilities, and how much they are benefited by them, especially in the newer settlements. I will add that I am sure no portion of the service is more ably administered, and in none is the expenditure more wisely made.

Mr. ROSS (West Middle ex). I would like to know why two or three post offices have been closed up in my con-