

**Hon. Mr. Smith** objected to the item of \$840 for pensions.

**Hon. Mr. Rose** said this was an obligation which had to be met. Whether it might not be put to the debit of Ontario and Quebec was another question.

**Hon. Mr. Smith** insisted that the Dominion could inherit no liability from the late Province of Canada unless it was created by statute.

**Hon. Mr. Fisher** also contended that pensions given by annual vote in the late Province could not devolve on the Dominion.

**Hon. Mr. Dunkin** said there was a machinery for dividing this obligation between Ontario and Quebec unless it devolved in the first instance on the Dominion.

This and the other items under the head of legislation was agreed to.

On the items Quebec Observatory, \$2,450, do. Toronto, \$4,800; do. Kingston Queen's College, \$500; do. Montreal McGill College, \$500.

**Hon. Mr. Smith** objected to paying grants to observatories in connection with colleges in Ontario and Quebec, while those connected with colleges in the Maritime Provinces got nothing.

**Hon. Mr. Rose** said the observatories at Kingston and Montreal had been got up by private subscription, and were not properly connected with the colleges named.

**Mr. Mackenzie** thought it a dangerous principle to commence making grants for local institutions. If observatories in connection with Queen's College and McGill College were to be aided, those in connection with colleges in the Maritime Provinces had an equal right to be aided.

The items were agreed to.

On the item of six months' grant in aid of schools of medicines and certain other institutions of Ontario and Quebec.

**Mr. Mackenzie** said he considered it most extraordinary that the Dominion Government should assume to provide for these institutions. They had no right to assume that Ontario and Quebec would or would not grant appropriations to these institutions, and had no right to pay away the money of Ontario and Quebec for such a purpose.

**Hon. Mr. Rose** said these grants were simply to pay a debt which had accrued in

consequence of the change of the fiscal year. The grant was for the six months from 1st January, 1867 to 1st July, 1867, and was as much a debt as any other liability of the late province of Canada. The amount had not yet been paid, but Government considered they were bound to pay it.

**Mr. Mackenzie** said this was a matter which belonged to the Parliament of the late Province of Canada, which had assumed to make all the appropriations it considered necessary up to 1st July, 1867.

**Hon. Mr. Holton** thought this was a matter with which the Dominion Parliament had nothing to do. There was no legal or moral obligation even on the part of the late Province of Canada to continue these grants, except from year to year; and under the Union Act, the Dominion Parliament was altogether incompetent to make them.

**Sir J. A. Macdonald** said that a six months' grant had dropped out in consequence of the change in the fiscal year, and this was only found out when the check came by introduction of the new system when Confederation went into operation. He contended that there was an obligation on Parliament to make up the deficiency.

**Mr. Mackenzie**, seconded by Mr. Whitehead, moved that the item be struck out. He again strongly objected to the extraordinary proposition of the Government that the Province of Ontario and Province of Quebec should be coerced into these grants. It was for these Provinces to make them or not as they pleased.

A lengthy discussion ensued, when—

**Hon. Mr. Rose** said he would not press the item that night, and there seemed to be a good deal of feeling on the subject.

**Mr. Mackenzie** said he was obliged to the honourable member.

The Committee then rose and reported progress.

#### MONTREAL WEST ELECTION

**Sir J. A. Macdonald** moved that the Speaker do issue his warrant for the election of a member for Montreal West, in the room of the late Hon. T. D. McGee.

The House adjourned at 1 o'clock.