

the auditor whose duty it was to see that all the accounts were of such a nature as ought to be paid, no such difficulty could arise.

Mr. D. A. McDonald hoped the Government would purchase all the stationery required for the Departments, and not, as at present, allow each Department to purchase piecemeal. In looking at the public accounts for one year he found the expenditure for pens alone set down at \$1,400.

Hon. Mr. Rose said the Government would purchase the stationery.

Mr. Young said that most extraordinary items crept into the accounts at times. One employer, for instance, was paid a sum to replace his hat, which he had lost. (Laughter.) He (Mr. Young) advocated fixing a scale of prices in printing, and thought many other improvements might be made.

The Bill was read a second time and ordered to be referred to Committee of the Whole to-morrow.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The House went into Committee on the Geological Survey resolutions, Mr. Morris in the Chair.

Dr. Parker disapproved of the way in which this vote was taken. It should be done by an annual grant, and not by voting a sum *en bloc* for the service to extend over a number of years. He did not quarrel with the amount, but the mode in which it was obtained. How long would this survey take to complete it? There was one thing to which it would be well to draw attention, and that was that certain parties managed through someone of the geological staff or other to obtain important information in advance regarding the mineral wealth of the country.

Hon. Mr. Rose could not answer the question of the honourable member for Centre Wellington. As to the course of the Government, it was he (Mr. Rose) conceived, the best under the circumstances, and would tend to further the objects of the survey.

Mr. Mackenzie said he gave no vote more cheerfully than his vote in favour of the amount necessary to conduct this important survey.

Hon. Mr. Rose, in reply to the member for Centre Wellington, said that on the geological staff, as elsewhere, there might have been found some who abused their trust, but the head of that department was not the man to countenance such a course for a moment.

[Mr. Mackenzie (Lambton).]

Mr. Bodwell spoke at length on the importance of these surveys.

Mr. Mackenzie did not understand the member for Centre Wellington to make any allusion to the head of the department, but merely to complain that secrets had leaked out.

Dr. Grant spoke favourably of the survey.

The Committee rose and reported the resolutions on the question of concurrence.

Hon. Mr. Holton maintained it was not competent for the Speaker to put the question of advancing a money measure a second stage in the same day.

The report was ordered to be received to-morrow.

The House rose at six o'clock.

After recess,

Hon. Mr. Cartier moved the second reading of the Bill respecting militia and defence of the Dominion of Canada. The honourable gentleman in accordance with his promise addressed the House in French in explanation of his measure, and subsequently spoke in English, while detailing the expense to be incurred under it, and the sum which he proposed to expend on fortifications. For that purpose, he proposed to borrow annually for five years, under the Imperial guarantees, at four per cent and one per cent sinking fund, the sum of 220,000 pounds sterling, and the annual charge on the amount would be—1st year, \$53,533; 2nd year, \$107,066; 3rd year, \$160,601; 4th year \$214,133; 5th year, \$267,666, and thence forward at the latter annual rate for about 30 years. By this measure which he brought down, he would satisfy the House that the ordinary expenditure to maintain the Militia force efficient, would be only \$900,000—say \$1,000,000—then, with the highest expenditure on fortifications it would only amount to \$1,267,000; whereas during the last 4 years there had been spent on an average something like \$500,000 a year. Under the new system they would have fortifications and better Military organization at a cost of at the most \$1,257,000 a year, and the cost would not even reach that amount during the first four years. After the 5th year the annual rate would remain the same for 28 or 32 years, according as the sinking fund was invested, at 5 or 6 per cent; then the charge would diminish as the sinking fund increased. The annual payment would diminish for five years in the reverse order in which it in-