

Sir John A. Macdonald said he had no objection to a little badinage, but he really did not see the propriety of introducing into this discussion the appointment of the Intercolonial Railroad Commissioners, as to which honourable gentlemen opposite had had their fling when the Bill was under discussion. As regarded this item, he desired to give the member for Lambton every opportunity of establishing the charges he had indicated, and would allow it to stand, with a view to its being taken up at an early hour to-morrow.

Mr. Mackenzie said he would be prepared to proceed with the item whenever the Government chose; but perhaps it would save time if the Government would bring down, before the discussion was resumed, some returns which he had asked for ten days ago. If these were not brought down to-morrow, it might be as well then to proceed with the other items.

Sir John A. Macdonald said he had no desire to hurry the discussion of the item.

The item was allowed to stand.

The next item—Post Office Department, \$45,334—was agreed to.

On the next—Department of Agriculture, Immigration and Statistics, \$18,466.

Hon. Mr. Anglin objected to the accounts of the Bureau of Agriculture, besides a large amount for what appeared to him a useless Department. He found that their Contingencies reached \$16,000, whereas last year they were only \$12,000; and last year the Department might fairly lay claim to have had something to do.

Mr. Blake stated that the Privy Council Contingencies were this year about double those of last year.

Messrs. Smith and Blake also objected to this Dominion Government appropriating, in several instances, sums for persons who were alleged to be old servants of Ontario, and were discharged and allowed a certain compensation. This Dominion Government had no right to interfere in the matter. Suppose the Provincial Government repudiated the account—what then?

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Hon. Mr. Rose said these charges were made against Ontario in the suspense account.

The item was agreed to.

On the item—Departmental Contingencies, \$187,733.

Mr. Mackenzie stated that among the contingencies he found the item of telegraphing for all the Departments extraordinarily heavy. The total amount for this service in the contingencies of the Departments last year was over \$14,000.

Hon. Mr. Rose explained that the telegraphing was and would be kept down as much as possible.

Mr. Mackenzie asked what the rate was?

Hon. Mr. McDougall said it was 20 per cent less than ordinary telegraphing rates.

Hon. Mr. Holton called attention to an abuse which existed and which he had noticed while in the Government—that parties sent lengthy messages to the departments by telegraph without prepaying them. This should not be.

Mr. Mackenzie also called attention to the way in which the advertising patronage was distributed. Obscure papers with hardly any circulation were favoured with advertisements a column long, showing forth that post office savings banks had been opened in the other end of the Province, or some other Province. Now these advertisements could not accomplish a particle of good; and he found also that a paper with an immense circulation like the *Toronto Globe* was favoured with advertising to the amount of about \$30 a year, while others almost unknown had advertising to the extent of \$500 and \$1,000 each. Again, he found a large sum set down for advertising in and subscriptions to the "Canadian News", which was nothing more or less than a Grand Trunk organ in London, England. It certainly was to the interest of the Government to prevent the waste of public money on useless advertisements and subscriptions to papers.

The item passed.

The Committee rose and reported progress and obtained leave to sit again on Thursday.