

Office expenditure now, or to what it was at any time during the last seventeen years.

It is possible that one of the objections to promotions here is that, when the money provision is made for a promotion, your petitioner makes the promotion, excluding from consideration everything but the claims which the candidates have made good by effective service in the Audit Office. The politicians have done enough for a man when they have secured his appointment. He should have a right to feel that once in the service he may look to his work for advancement. Nothing else should count.

Supposing there were a change of Government to-morrow, what efficiency would there be in the Audit Office, if the incomers could put their friends, with short experience and, therefore, insufficient knowledge of the more important work of the office, over the heads of those who have always done their duty and have acquired a full knowledge of it?

As long as your petitioner is in his present office, no matter what party holds the reins of power, every effort will be made to keep the financial affairs right, and in cases where it is impossible to do that, to make it as clear as possible to the tax-payers of the country wherein in his opinion, the wrong consists; while every man in the office, no matter what his opinions may be about other things, will get what his work entitles him to get, so far as your petitioner has the power to help him to get it.

Your petitioner does not want it to be understood that he complains about the treatment of this office until the last year or two. The success of the office, such as it is, has been brought about in a great measure by Ministers who supported it when it was placed on its present basis, particularly by Sir John Macdonald.

EXTRA CLERKS.

Your petitioner must also draw your attention to the reduction in the estimates for extra clerks from \$1,800 to \$1,300. The larger sum was appropriated for this current year, and all of it is required.

He is often ashamed in asking men who are doing more than they should be called upon to do, to make a further effort so that the Report may be got out in time, and yet, although the estimates for permanent clerks are reduced by \$382.50, the Government has reduced this estimate, as above stated, by \$500, without calling upon him for an explanation. Your petitioner just learns that two of the permanent clerks require three months' leave of absence on account of ill-health. Besides, there are now two vacancies in the permanent staff. It will then be impossible to make the Report for the current year anything like it should be in fulness and carefulness, and it will not be got out in time.

One of the extra clerks gets at the rate of \$500 a year, and all the rest only \$400. They work until five o'clock when permanent clerks do so. One has been here for three years, another for two years. The services of the others are dispensed with as soon as the Report is printed.

Your petitioner therefore prays that your honourable body do appoint a special committee to consider the facts set forth in this petition, and to report the means which should be taken to secure the continued efficiency of the Audit Office, whether by establishing regulations to govern its extra clerk service and by fixing a theoretical organization for the permanent staff of 3 chief clerks, 4 first-class clerks and 5 second-class clerks; or by such other provisions as may seem

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell).

to be advisable for the purpose, and your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I move:

That the petition of the Auditor General presented this day, be printed in the Votes and Proceedings of to-morrow, and that Rule 94 be suspended so as to permit of the same.

Mr. FOSTER. The rule cannot be suspended without consent. However, it is a matter of some interest, I suppose, to the House as a whole, and I have no objection at all to its being printed to-morrow in the Votes and Proceedings; but of course we cannot establish a precedent of that kind with regard to other petitions. It might be printed separately.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I do not object to its being printed separately; I only wish to get it before the House; and the Auditor General, being a public officer of high rank, what may be done with regard to his petition would not become a precedent for everybody's petition.

Mr. SPEAKER. It is proposed, as I understand, with the consent of the House, to strike out the words, "in the Votes and Proceedings to-morrow."

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT.

Mr. FLINT moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 107) to amend the Canada Temperance Act. He said: The principal provision which it is proposed to amend is that regarding the powers of search under certain circumstances. The object of this amendment is to define more clearly the powers and limits of the search under a search warrant. Another clause refers to a conviction for a second offence in case the party charged is not present at the time of the conviction. I will explain more fully on the second reading.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

ASSIGNMENT OF SALARIES OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

Mr. BECHARD moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 108) respecting the assignment and attachment of the salaries of public employees.

Mr. AMYOT. Explain.

Mr. BECHARD. The Bill provides that any public employee may make an assignment to any person of his future salary, and that his head officer, on being notified of it, may pay the creditor of that employee a certain part of his monthly salary. Another clause provides that the salary may be attached by judgment of the court. It provides for the proportion which may be so attached or assigned. If the salary