

well known that when this new system was under discussion I was not one of those who regarded the proposition that it should be introduced, with favor.

Now, sir, there is one first, obvious application of the principle I have been endeavoring to lay down, to the matter which I shall have shortly to bring before this House. I refer in general terms to the question of economy. There are those who, affecting to think very little of provincial institutions, appear also to be determined to exact from them an amount of what they call economy, but which I should call parsimony, which is simply, for all practical purposes, impossible and unadvisable. The distinction between parsimony and economy is one which we must not lose sight of. A very wise utterance of a very old time tells us—"There is that scattereth and yet increaseth: and there is that withholdeth more than is meet; but it tendeth to poverty." If we want to have our work well done—and I have been trying to enforce on this House the conviction, which I think they feel, that we do want our work well done—we must take care that it is done by a sufficient number of fit men: and if we want it done by fit men in sufficient number, we must pay fit prices; and this we cannot do without the expenditure of a certain amount of money. If any man undertakes to tell me the affairs of this Province can be carried on without spending money,—with what some call economy, with what is but ill-judged economy, parsimony, meanness,—I take issue with him at once. It is simply impossible. You may get men to serve in insufficient numbers, with insufficient qualifications, for insufficient pay; but you will take nothing by it; it will be that "withholding of more than is meet which tendeth to poverty." You want to have your work well done. But if your scale of remuneration be too low, if you have every man coming into your service anxious as soon as he can to transfer his capacities to Ottawa or elsewhere, as they may be better appreciated—if everything here is to be little and mean, and everybody that has anything to do with our system is to be ashamed of it, and desire to get out of our service to something else—you will find the public will suffer from this false economy. If every employer of labor is to pay higher than we, can we have anything but refuse labor? Our employees will be planning and scheming to get out of our service, instead of assiduously devoting themselves to the efficient discharge of its duties. This belittling practice would besides have the effect upon our public men, of turning their attention away from this Province to another sphere, and preventing them from throwing their efforts into the working-out of our system in a manner to advance the prosperity of Quebec and the Dominion generally; they would identify themselves with Dominion struggles and party cries, merely making our provincial machinery subsidiary to the bigger machinery at work elsewhere. You must not have the members of your Local Government continually anxious to get out of it, or your members of the Legislature more anxious than is unavoidable under the circumstances, to escape its toils. You must not have the Government employees in a disposition of anxiety to give up your service. You must try to get the earnest services of fit men; and to do that I tell you that although you should not pay extravagantly, you must pay a fair price or you can not have the fair article. (Cheers.) In this matter the law of demand and supply prevails. The sacrifices of public and official life are too great for most people to make