

tribute with resignation, as are indispensable obligations, which must be made manifest preliminary subject of opinion, that the Government to the Committee was an acknowledgment of the Province, from the late war, and during the late war, pay the Civil List had, but the narrow policy disposed to adopt the, and he was happy in her eyes to the true (he) hear the minions the Mother Country, shall no longer be great Britain ought to open to our view, but us more closely than asked, if the Civil List ought to be thought of the Commons public monies. From member to attend with list; but he was also their eyes upon the result, which could be better to adopt speedy appropriation of public. For instance, right to be cut short, or die with the indolence of intrigue. It

such a transmutation without augmenting the advanced period of the efficient to induce the diminution, for the Public Accounts so unaccountably as members might have deductions, as circumscription, the possession of the augmentation of the progress of flourishing state of the Legislature, measure for the main advantage which the emigration from the light of taxes under probability, they

that His Excellency, however had since on had already the was Deputy Judge in the Prerogative. These situations however, his pay hoped he would be the duties of a single to justice to an undivided atten-

of Offices which ought, in his proposed augmentation be very legitimate to that Gentlemen's salary as Secretaries ample provision occupied. As for finally, he thought in the assertion

that his performance of the duties of that office, were purely gratuitous; that he had undertaken them to oblige a friend, and therefore ought not to be reflected upon. With respect to other abuses which had been alluded to, he admitted that they might, at a future Session, be the proper subject of discussion, but that the advanced period of the present Session, was such as to preclude a possibility of their being able to bestow that attention which the subject unquestionably deserved.

Mr. Viger spoke at very considerable length on the subject, and was of opinion that the Civil List required scrutiny; but that the Session was too far advanced to enter upon so interesting a topic with any prospect of coming to a definitive adjustment. Mr. V. deprecated the idea of voting a sum in lump, for the different departments. He maintained it to be unconstitutional, and that it would afford a most dangerous precedent. He would specify in the Bill of Appropriation, the exact sum which every functionary should receive.

Mr. Vanfelson was of opinion, that the House ought to adopt the Civil List as it stood, notwithstanding the many imperfections which it contained, and which were universally acknowledged. It behoved the Province to get fairly possession of it. This point once fully obtained, a period no doubt would arrive, when those abuses which called loudly and imperiously for redress, would be amply discussed and remedied. He thought it needless for the present, to enter into the iniquitous items of the Civil List. They were numerous; for instance, could any one acquainted with the *carte du pays*, help acknowledging the inutility of the situation of French Translator. He set aside altogether those scandalous reflections which bore mention of that situation must suggest. He was upon the whole disposed to adopt the Civil List, as it now stood; but he would, in the ensuing Session, most heartily concur in retrenching what could not be considered by their constituents as the height of imposition.

Mr. Panet—entered largely into the Establishment of the Secretariat, which he could not but consider as overgrown—He was of opinion that it ought to be reduced—and expatiated upon what he conceived to be the indisputable and constitutional motives for adopting the mode of proceeding.

N. B. The Debates upon the Civil List occupied the attention of the House from the 29th until the 31st of March inclusively, when the Resolution of the latter day terminated the business.

31st MARCH, 1818.

Mr. Taschereau moved, seconded by Mr. Bellet, that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor in Chief, representing to His Excellency, that the House having taken into consideration His Excellency's recommendation on the subject of the Expenses of the Civil Government of this Province for the year 1818, have voted a sum not exceeding Forty Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty-three Pounds, Eight Shillings and nine Pence Currency, towards defraying the Expenses of the Civil Government of this Province for the year 1818, exclusive of the sums already appropriated by Law.—But 1818, the peculiar circumstances which have prevented the House from receiving at an earlier moment the Estimate of the Civil List Revenue and Public Accounts, and the advanced state of the Session not admitting the passing of a Bill of Appropriation for the purpose, they pray, His Excellency will be pleased to order that the said sum not exceeding forty thousand two hundred and sixty-three pounds eight shillings and nine pence currency, be taken out of any of the unappropriated monies, which now are, or hereafter may be, in the hands of the Receiver General of this Province, for the purposes aforesaid; and assuring His Excellency, that this House will make good the same at the next Session of the Provincial Parliament.

After some debate, it was resolved accordingly.

Yeas 16—Nays 2.

Mr. Cuvillier—stated, that he rose to move in a measure which had already been found of sufficient moment to engage the most earnest attention of the House, and which, as far as he had been able to judge, had been considered by the public at large, as a matter of the greatest importance, to the upright administration of Justice. He meant the enquiry concerning the Court of Vice Admiralty in this Province. In the course of the enquiry, he had been reproached, by an honorable member, with having instituted the present enquiry in the absence of the Gentleman who presided in the Court of Vice Admiralty, but he availed himself of the present occasion, to remind members, that he had given notice in the last Session, of his intention to institute the present enquiry; which, he

trusted, had been fairly and temperately conducted. He, therefore could not be accused of having acted with precipitancy, after having given a year's notice, and, he had reason to believe, that the Gentleman in question, must have been apprised of his intention. It was from the same liberal principles by which he then acted, that he was now induced to give a similar notice of his determination upon the result of the enquiry which had taken place before a Committee of the whole house. He did not wish to act precipitately, nor to take advantage of an absence,—He only desired, and he ardently desired,—to correct those abuses, which, appeared to have become intolerable. The whole of the testimony upon which he intended to rely, was now in print, and members would have time coolly to reflect upon the subject between this and the ensuing Session;—Mr. Cuvillier then proposed to resolve, "that the advanced period of the Session of the Provincial Parliament, does not permit the house to take into consideration, the report of the General Committee to which it was referred to enquire into the state of the administration of justice in the Court of Vice Admiralty, & that the consideration of the same be resumed in the ensuing Session."

It was accordingly unanimously resolved as above.

Mr. Cuvillier then gave notice, that in the course of the ensuing Session, he would propose certain Resolutions, which he read in his place, and are in substance.

1. That the Judge of the Vice Admiralty was also a Judge in the King's Bench.

2. That the union of these offices in the same person was dangerous, incompatible and unconstitutional.

3. That fees had been exacted by the Judge in the Vice Admiralty.

4. That to exact fees for a Judge was derogatory to the dignity of the Crown, illegal and contrary to the spirit of the Constitution of the Province.

5. That much public discontent existed by reason of the exaction of those fees.

6. That the Surrogation of other persons, being Advocates and Attorneys, to act as Judges in the absence of the Judge of the Vice Admiralty was wrong and illegal.

7. That an Address be presented to the Governor in Chief, praying him to adopt measures in order that the two important offices of Judge of the King's Bench and Judge in the Vice Admiralty in this Province be no longer vested in the same person.

8. That a denial of Justice to Mr. John Goudie of Quebec, had been incurred by the Court of Vice Admiralty in this Province.

6. That the Commons do Impeach for these.

Mr. Cuvillier—then gave notice that he will, in the ensuing session, move to institute an enquiry into the conduct of the Officers of the Customs, as relates to the Charge of Commission on the Duties raised in virtue of Acts of the Provincial Parliament, and also on the Act of the 14th Geo. III. chap. 88.

Mr. Taschereau—rose to give notice that he would early in the ensuing Session propose an enquiry into the manner in which the Act of the Provincial Parliament of the 36 Geo. III. ch. 10, intitled "An Act for regulating Persons who hire or engage to perform voyages to the Indian Country or to winter there" is executed, and what were the results of the said Act.—As an individual Representative of the People of Lower Canada, he thought himself obliged to institute an enquiry upon a subject which deeply concerned the Individuals who were employed in the trade of the Indian Territories under this Act.—The result of the enquiry he proposed, would apprehended tend to prove that there was no reciprocity of interests or of obligations between the masters and the servants.—That the whole advantage lay with the former while the latter were not only frequently wronged but were entirely unprotected against the tyranny exercised against them under colour of the Act alluded to.—He proposed in fact to develop the system upon which the trade in the North West Country was carried on by certain Fur traders to the detriment and ruin of the unfortunate people employed in their service, whose demoralizing effects were so sensibly felt in this Province.

The Act above mentioned had enabled the persons to whom he alluded to monopolize the trade to the Indian Territories to the utter exclusion of all others His Majesty's Canadian Subjects.—He believed the result of the proposed enquiry would tend to a conviction of the necessity of the repeal or modification of that Act, and of a strong representation to His Majesty's Ministers on the subject of the trade in question, to induce them to adopt immediate and effectual measures to prevent the evils arising from the state of affairs in the Indian Countries.