

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

Hon. Mr. Rose moved that the House go again into Committee of Supply.

Hon. Mr. Holton moved in amendment—That all the words after “that” in the original motion be omitted, and the following inserted:—“It is expedient to provide for a reduction on the first day of July next of the salary of the Governor-General to \$35,000 per annum, and of the salaries of all officers and employees of the Government receiving more than \$800 per annum by at least 12½ per cent, and to provide that no salaried officer of Government shall receive any extra emoluments for special services.” He said his motion spoke for itself, and he thought it scarcely necessary for him to say anything in its support. He believed the general feeling of the country was that \$35,000 would be a sufficient salary for the head of the Government. As regarded the second proposition, he thought the Government must admit its justice when they had supported a similar reduction with reference to employees of the House. As to the third proposition, its justice could hardly be disputed. If salaried officers were engaged on special services, it was clear their ordinary duties were not sufficient to occupy their time, or else that these duties were neglected. In either case they should not receive two prices for their services.

Mr. Mackenzie seconded the motion.

Mr. Dufresne moved in amendment to the amendment, that the salary of the Governor-General be \$32,000.

Mr. Speaker ruled this amendment out of order—only one amendment being permissible to a motion for going into Committee of Supply.

Hon. Mr. Dunkin objected to Mr. Holton's amendment that it contained three propositions. If put in its present form, it debarred the House from considering hereafter any one of the propositions separately and on its own merits.

Hon. Mr. Holton said that in reality there was but one principal proposition, namely, to reduce.

Hon. Mr. Galt supported Mr. Dunkin's view, and thought any member of the House could require the motion to be divided.

Hon. Mr. Dorion contended that the motion was in order.

Sir John A. Macdonald supported the contrary view—that it ought to be divided. The honourable mover might persist in it, but it appeared to have been framed so as to ensure defeat.

Hon. Mr. Holton said he had no desire to place the House in an embarrassing position.

Sir John A. Macdonald—It is you who are in an embarrassing position.

Hon. Mr. Holton—Not at all. If the leader of the Government put it on that ground, he would refrain from making the proposition he had intended. He was quite willing to give the leader of the Government an opportunity of giving a square vote on the whole motion; but if it was the desire of the House to have three votes instead of one, he was willing to divide it; or if it was the desire of the House simply to vote on the Governor-General's salary, he would strike out the latter part of it; but if the Government wished to join issue on the whole motion, he (Mr. Holton) and his friends were quite prepared to take their stand on it in its present shape.

Mr. Jones (Leeds) desired to have the vote confined to the Governor-General's salary. As for the proposed reduction of all salaries by 12½ per cent, such a sweeping measure, without any previous enquiry, was very objectionable. It did not rest on the same basis as the similar proposition with reference to salaries of officers of this House, which had been decided upon after a full investigation by a Committee.

Hon. Mr. Gray expressed the opinion that the motion did not violate any rule of the House. It was simply a question of expediency, to be judged by the mover, whether he should present it in that shape or not.

MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA

After the recess,

Hon. Mr. Holton, in the absence of Mr. Abbott, moved the House into Committee of the Whole on the Bill to confirm the amalgamation of the Commercial Bank of Canada and the Merchants' Bank.

The Committee reported the Bill with some amendments, which were agreed to, and the third reading was ordered for Monday.

MONTREAL WEST ELECTION

Mr. Speaker read a certificate from the Clerk of the Crown Chancery, that M. P. Ryan, Esq., had been elected to represent Montreal West.