

estimate, expend the money. If the hon. gentleman will look at the Auditor-General's Report or the Public Accounts he will find that, though we took \$32,950 last year, the expenditure was only \$30,428. If the hon. gentleman will look at the expenditure of the Department in 1878, the last year of their reign, adding the contingencies to the salary account, he will find that the expenditure was \$44,610, while last year it was only \$36,735, notwithstanding the fact that there have been about \$1,000 statutory increases every year during the last five years, thus showing a reduced expenditure last year, as compared with 1878, of \$7,874.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The hon. Minister of Customs is to be congratulated. He is the sole member of the Government of which so much can be said; but I am bound in honour to say that no complaint whatever can be taken to the increases which the hon. gentleman speaks of in his own Department. I shall be glad, however, to know what are the optional subjects in the Customs Department to which he referred.

Mr. BOWELL. The optional subjects to which I referred are those which are provided for candidates passing Civil Service examinations. Such as *précis* writing, a knowledge of accounts, book-keeping, and various others subjects. I may state for the information of hon. members, that the plan was adopted of allowing a third-class clerk an additional sum of \$50 on entering, for each optional subject upon which he passed, and for which he received a certificate.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I think that is very reasonable. Is there the same rule in all the Departments?

Mr. BOWELL. Yes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I thought that, perhaps, in the hon. gentleman's own Department, they might have varied from some of the others.

Mr. BOWELL. That would be in the case of promotional examinations. Then we have special examinations for surveyors, gaugers and other officers of that kind.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I notice in the fifth item, that the hon. gentleman took, last year, a vote for two first-class clerks; now he asks for one. Is that a death or a superannuation?

Mr. BOWELL. That is the case of Mr. Grant, who, though comparatively a young man, was in such a condition of health, that on the certificate of his physician here, as well as in New York, where he was obliged to go, he was superannuated. The position is not yet filled, though the work he formerly performed is now done by a third-class clerk. Mr. Grant obtained his rank for long service.

Mr. GAULT. I think the Minister of Customs is to be congratulated on running his Department so economically. In fact, I think he runs it too closely, and that if he spent \$20,000 more, it would be a great advantage to the country.

Mr. MITCHELL. I think the hon. gentleman might be a little more liberal in considering claims presented to him. I have had something to do with presenting claims to his department, and I find him hard as nails.

Mr. GUILLET. I have the same complaint to make.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would suggest, on the doctrine of averages, that the hon. gentleman's economy will only make up for the too great laxity elsewhere.

14. The Department of the Postmaster-General. \$147,330 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I recollect how we were abused for asking \$87,000 for this service a few years ago, when we had only ninety-two clerks. No doubt there has been a good deal of increase of business in the North-West, but I think a battalion of 171 clerks, and a vote of \$147,330

Mr. BOWELL.

is more than the increase in the work of the Department in the last four or five years would fairly warrant. I notice by the Public Accounts, that some thirty or forty extra hands were employed in the Department during last year.

Mr. CARLING. There has not been a single extra hand employed in my Department during the last year. Those in 1882-83 were made permanent clerks last year.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am glad to hear that. Will the hon. gentleman explain the necessity for the additions in other items.

Mr. CARLING. There are no additions, except junior clerks, who come in at the salary of \$400 a year. The addition of ten clerks is on account of the great increase in the business of the Department. No less than 1,000 new post offices have been established within the past five years. This, with the general increase of business, the opening up of new mail routes in the North-West, the increasing number of mail contracts in different parts of the Dominion, and the increase in the savings banks, accounts for the growth of the expenditure. The increased revenue of the Department last year, I may state, was something over \$200,000.

Mr. HESSON. I am surprised that the increase has not been greater, and that the hon. gentleman has been able to conduct his Department with salaries so much lower than those of the other Departments. I presume that he requires in his staff as much intelligence and experience as are required in similar officers in other Departments, as his is one whose work is identified with every interest in the country. This state of things is very gratifying, considering the increased work in the Post Office Department, which must have taken place within the last five or ten years, and the increased revenue which is being derived from the Department. I think the Postmaster General is, perhaps, if anything, too close. The officers there, some of them, work very hard, and are very poorly paid.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I do not quite agree with the hon. gentleman. Apparently the work of the Department has increased but 25 per cent. in the last five years, while the expenditure has increased 100 per cent., although you ought to be able to manage the larger amount of work for a little less, proportionately, than the smaller amount.

15. The Department of Agriculture.....\$44,695 00

Mr. McLELAN. Besides the statutory increases, the only addition is one third-class clerk in the fourth division, at \$350.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What is the duty of the gentleman described as an attaché?

Mr. McLELAN. I cannot give a fuller explanation than I have given, but I dare say that the Minister in charge of the Department, who is absent on account of ill-health, will be able to give it on Concurrence. I will make a note of it, and draw his attention to it.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Does the hon. Minister of Finance know whether the Statistics and Census Branch has been specially created with the view of looking after the Census affairs? I think the vote first appeared in this shape last year. Some of these titles are rather unfamiliar. Statistical officer and attaché are new terms.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY. My own impression is that the attaché is a gentleman who understands foreign languages; but we shall give the information on Concurrence. The statistical officer, I think, is employed in obtaining statistics with reference to the public health.

16. The Department of Marine and Fisheries \$36,142 50

Mr. McLELAN. These are all increases under the Statute.