

with the efficiency of the public service, and that he would not with a smaller staff be responsible for the work being properly performed, thought the House should pause before adopting the report. He moved an amendment, to leave it to the Speaker to discharge such of the permanent officers as he might find convenient, and to provide that to those who were discharged a compensation should be granted, much as the Speaker had resolved upon with regard to the officers of that body, of one year's salary to those who had served under twenty years, and two years' salary to those who had served for a longer period.

**Hon. Mr. Chauveau** supported the amendment.

**Mr. Masson (Soulanges)** said he had been surprised to hear so many members to-day speak against economy. During the last election every speech he had read, every address issued by honourable members in all parts of the Dominion, preached economy; but to-day there was quite a different doctrine. In Ontario, economy had been well carried out by the member for Cornwall. That honourable gentleman, by the course he had taken, had earned the approbation of the great mass of the people throughout the Dominion. That honourable gentleman got the public work done by gentlemen receiving \$1,000 or \$1,200 a year, just as efficiently as similar service was done in Quebec for \$2,000 or \$2,400 a year. He regretted that the Premier of Quebec, instead of adopting a policy similar to that carried out in Ontario, had introduced a system of extravagance which must inevitably result in direct taxation. He thoroughly approved of the report of the Committee, and hoped retrenchment would also be carried through the public departments.

**Mr. Casault** said in the first part of this session, certain gentlemen went about with a round robin to have the pay of members augmented; and if he was not greatly mistaken, the member for Soulanges was one of them. The honourable gentleman had become a strong advocate of retrenchment. He expected to find him before the session was through introducing an amendment to the Bill which gave members about \$15 a day for their services.

**Mr. Masson** denied that he had gone about with the round robin referred to, and defied the honourable gentleman to prove it.

**Mr. Scatcherd** said he could not understand by what process of reasoning the Speaker had arrived at the conclusion that the work of this Parliament was greater than that of the old Parliament of Canada. He (Mr. Scatcherd) did not believe it was greater than that of the Parliament of Ontario, and yet there the work was done by eight clerks, simply because the Premier set down his foot and declared he would not agree to any extravagance. Here there must be at least fifty-six clerks. The officers of the late Province of Canada, he thought, should not, as a matter of course, have been saddled on the Parliament of this Dominion. The gentlemen from the Lower Provinces had good cause to complain that they found all the offices here filled with Canadians. They took good care, however, not to go to the Ontario Parliament for employment. He was only surprised that many of them had not gone to Quebec where such liberal views prevailed, as had been expressed by the Premier of the Quebec Government and the Speaker of the Quebec House.

**Hon. J. Sandfield Macdonald** said he was astonished that Ministers should sit quietly and allow the debate to take the turn it had without attempting to give tone to it, or telling the House what they proposed to do. For his own part, he was prepared to support the report, without saying whether he was dissatisfied at the Committee not having gone further. He was afraid, however, the report would have the same fate as had befallen every similar report for the last twenty-five years, and as would befall every such report in the future, unless the Government themselves took the matter in hand. If there was one thing more than another which had reconciled him to Confederation, it was that the people of Upper Canada got, under it, the control of their own affairs, and of their own expenditures; and what was the result? Why their Legislature got along with five permanent clerks, a house-keeper and a messenger; and at the present time these officers did not know what to do with themselves. The other day, the clerks ashamed of having nothing to do, asked to be employed in the departments. A similar cheap system could be introduced here if the Government would only take upon themselves the responsibility. He believed, as regarded this House, he had as much experience as the honourable member for West Northumberland (Mr. Cockburn) who, coming down with all the weight which his position was fitted to give him, declared that the