

Mr. FOSTER. No, that would not bring him out. There is an increase in the income tax. The messenger's estimate was \$700; the amount expended up to the 10th of June was \$516. Extra clerk in place of one who has retired, \$73. So that altogether, taking into account these over-expenditures up to the 10th of June, \$1,000 will be required to meet the expenditure up to the last of the year.

Mr. MULOCK. Why not take it out of that \$2,000?

Mr. FOSTER. We cannot do that this year.

Mr. McMULLEN. I have no desire to detain the Committee at any length on this item, but I want to say this. The items for contingencies in connection with the High Commissioner's office in London are very minutely detailed in the Auditor General's Report, but I cannot see unless from the remarks the Finance Minister just made, that there is any necessity for granting an additional sum of \$1,000. Now, there were some remarks made with regard to the contents of the High Commissioner's report, which was pretty well criticized at a previous stage of this session. As I said then, I cannot see that there is a necessity for all the expenditure in connection with that office that we are called upon to bear each year; and, in my humble opinion, there ought to be a very carefully and minutely prepared statement of all these expenditures, so that we might fully understand how every item of this money has been spent. I notice that it is increasing every year. It is to be regretted that year after year the cost of that office is rising. You go back five years and you will find it was very much less than it is now. It was less under Sir A. T. Galt than it is under Sir Charles Tupper. I do not for a moment doubt that, perhaps, he performs duties and does a considerable amount of travelling and so on. The duties of the office may be increasing, but I say in justice to the people of this country who are tax-payers, and in justice to this House, we should have a pretty detailed statement of all the moneys expended within and under the office of High Commissioner in London. In the first place I would like to know whether there has been an increase in the number of officers employed.

Mr. FOSTER. I think there has been a decrease of one.

Mr. McMULLEN. I am very glad, that is a step in the right direction; because, from the report we have received, I do not think there can be a necessity for the extensive staff that is kept there.

Mr. FOSTER. They are all kept at work.

Mr. McMULLEN. Judging from the report that has been sent in, it seems to be more in the line of an emigration office. While we have emigration agents in Liverpool and in other towns of the United Kingdom, whose duty it is to attend to that particular matter, I cannot see that a large amount of emigration business can devolve upon the High Commissioner and his staff in London, because those emigration agents must perform a very large part of that service. I want to get some idea as to when we may be able to reach the ultimate limit of the increased expenditure under the head of the High Commissioner. In order that we may ascertain that limit, we should have a very minutely detailed account laid before Parliament

so that we can form some idea as to whether this money is being well expended or not. There are increases in a great many lines, and it is our duty, as an Opposition, to oppose unnecessary increases, and closely to criticize them in the public interest. If we find, upon careful investigation, that they are justifiable, then we should consent to them; but if they are not justifiable, it is our duty to resist any further increase. In my opinion, the High Commissioner has been rather disposed to spend more money than was necessary in the general interests of this Dominion, and I would suggest that every detail of his expenditure should be closely criticized.

Printing voters' lists and election expenses

—Governor General's warrant..... \$21,500

Mr. FOSTER. These are the Governor General's warrants about which we were talking the other day, and none of us knew much. The details of the printing of the voters' lists, as given to me, are these: There was a Governor General's warrant taken, and the expenditure to 10th July was for the items which I will read: Pay of printers—that, of course, is the cost of the printers engaged upon the printing of the voters' lists, \$1,922; pay of clerks, \$2,000; Dominion Type Founding Company for type, and another company for type, \$1,500; express company, \$1.10; telegraph company, \$10; another telegraph company, \$24; Queen's Printer for printing stationery, \$331. Then there was an item advanced to the two revising officers by the Auditor General, to enable them to get to work upon the duties of their office, which is simply, of course, an advance of so much upon their salaries, which is sometimes done. The whole amount of the expenditure was \$6,702. Then there was a question raised as to the returns for the sale of the lists. The amount received for sale of voters' lists is \$3,907, making an expenditure over and above income of \$2,795. Now as to the details of elections—that is, the other returns. Out of \$11,500 there have been expended \$9,381. These expenditures have been for expressage. I may say that up to the past election there was an arrangement between the Dominion and the two Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, by which they had a joint ownership of the ballot boxes, and in the provinces there is a rather close connection between the municipalities and the Government, and for municipal elections, which are conducted by ballot, the same ballot boxes were used. So whenever an election came round the officers had to send men all over the country to scour up these ballot boxes, and this was attended with much difficulty and expense. An arrangement has been carried out with the Province of Quebec, by which that province bought the old boxes jointly owned by the province and the Dominion, and paid for them, and we got new ballot boxes in Quebec for ourselves, which are to be our very own and not to be trotted around and loaned, so that we will know where they are when we want them. A similar arrangement has not yet been completed in Ontario, but negotiations are being carried on. At all events, with regard to Ontario we adopted the same plan and got our own ballot boxes. The item for ballot boxes amounts to \$6,000, the cost of each box ranging from \$2 to \$2.50. They are considered to be very good boxes. The item, Queen's Printer, \$1,314, is explained in this way: