

The items amounting to \$50,368.42 under the heading Miscellaneous, were carried.

On the item \$520,016 for collection of Customs,

Hon. Mr. Tilley explained, in reply to Mr. Holton, that the percentage in the whole revenue collected was greater in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick than in Ontario and Quebec. Still the salaries of the officers were not so large in the former as in the latter office, for the performance of the same duties. How the greater expense came to attach to the Maritime Provinces in this matter was easily explained. Nearly three-fifths of the whole revenue of Ontario and Quebec was collected at one port, Montreal, and hence the cost of collection was cheaper than in the Lower Provinces, where the revenue had to be collected in 60 or 70 ports. It was his intention during the recess to see whether the number of these smaller ports in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and elsewhere in the Dominion, could not be reduced without impairing the efficiency of the public service.

Mr. Anglin said the promises of retrenchment and economy by the Ministry sounded very hollow in the ears of the Lower Provinces. Instead of a cheaper system, as had been promised under Confederation, there had been a large increase in the numbers and salaries of Customs Officers in the Lower Provinces of and about the 1st July last.

Mr. Mackenzie said the customs collection at Quebec last year amounted to about half a million and the expenses were \$55,000 or considerably over 10 per cent of the collection. At Hamilton \$50,000 more was collected than at Quebec, and the charge was only \$17,000. The income at Toronto was nearly a million, and the entire expenses of collection was only about \$25,000, or considerably less than 2½ per cent. Surely there was some room for enquiry as to the enormous charges at Quebec. Again, at Rimouski he found there were a collector and two landing waiters, and the revenue collected was absolutely nothing. It might be necessary to keep an officer there at a small salary, but what could be the use of two landing waiters?

Hon. Mr. Tilley said that at ports like Quebec and Montreal, there was a large expenditure, where no revenue was received. For example, when a vessel arrived, a tide waiter was put on board—an expense which

did not require to be incurred at Toronto. The expense of the bonding system thereat was very large.

Mr. Mackenzie—But at Montreal the expenses of collecting are only a little over 2 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Tilley said the discrepancy in the cost of collecting at different ports was one of the points to which he proposed to give his earnest attention at an early day.

The item was agreed to, as also the items for collection of Inland Revenue and Post Office Revenue. In connection with the latter item,

Mr. Mackenzie urged the propriety of providing better mail accommodation for the north shores of Lake Huron and Superior. He said he would urge the matter more formally on the attention of the Government, and ask exact information as to the nature of the arrangements now existing, when the estimates for 1868 and '69 were before the House.

The items—Public Works, \$730,742, and collection minor revenue, \$20,000—were agreed to, being the last of the ordinary estimates for 1867 and '68.

The supplementary estimates for the same year were also agreed to, without discussion.

The Committee then proceeded with the estimates for 1868 and '69.

On the first item—Salaries of four Lieut.-Governors, \$30,000—

Hon. Mr. Chauveau said at the concurrence he would make some remarks on this subject. They could not increase the sum mentioned in the estimates, but they could at least give their opinions.

Mr. Jones (Halifax) said he quite agreed with the Premier of Quebec as to the propriety of increasing the salaries of the Lieutenant-Governors.

The item was agreed to,

On the second item—Salaries and Contingencies of Departments—\$550,000, to be distributed under the provisions of the Civil Service and Contingencies Act.

Hon. Mr. Rose said he asked the House to pass this sum *en bloc*. The House would have an opportunity of discussing the details in connection with Civil Service Act.

Mr. Mackenzie asked if Government were to introduce a Bill founded on the resolution