

After Recess.

House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Militia and Defence Dept. . . . \$45,462 50

Mr. FOSTER. There are eleven statutory increases of \$50 and an additional second-class clerk to fill the place of one promoted.

Mr. McMULLEN. In connection with these several departments I notice that there are quite a number of clerks who draw their salary for the year, and who in addition get extra pay for extra services. I have drawn the attention of the House for several sessions to the fact that the system of allowing clerks who draw extra pay for extra work is an absurd one.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the hon. gentleman say that any of the thirty-three clerks in this department are drawing extra pay?

Mr. McMULLEN. I speak of the system generally and I am not prepared to refer to particulars just now.

Mr. FOSTER. None of these are.

Mr. McMULLEN. That may be so, but I say that the custom is becoming more common in the several departments of the Government.

Mr. FOSTER. I understand the point my friend is aiming at, but I think we had better keep ourselves to the business-like rule of last year and the year before, which was to confine ourselves to the discussion of the item under consideration. There are none of these clerks drawing extra salary, and my hon. friend will have ample opportunity of discussing this matter when the particular item to which he refers comes up.

Mr. McMULLEN. It is utterly impossible for a member to keep track of all the payments of this kind for extra services, because there is an enormous list of these clerks who draw extra pay. The hon. gentleman is evidently anxious to get through supply as rapidly as possible and no one finds fault with him for proceeding with it so early in the session, but it is our duty to have a reasonable and intelligent discussion of the public expenditure. We cannot rush through these items, lest we might find that certain matters have escaped our attention which should be subject to the criticisms of hon. gentlemen. We have a duty to perform in criticising expenditures, and we wish to perform that duty with all courtesy to the hon. gentleman and his colleagues. This subject of extra pay to civil servants is one which deserves attention, because I have come to the conclusion that the first thing a clerk does when he is placed in a position is to look around to see if he can obtain extra pay. The Minister of Finance can find on the first pages of the Auditor-General's Report the names of

hundreds of clerks who have drawn extra pay for extra work. Some of them have positions in which they draw a salary of \$2,000 a year, and yet they are allowed extra pay for some trifling work which they may do in the very office in which they are engaged. This is a growing evil and should be put a stop to now and forever. It is a wrong system and it is one which should be drawn to the attention of the Government and the House.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I must say that this Department of Militia and Defence appears to be very heavily manned. Thirty-two clerks and messengers ought, in all conscience, to be enough, and there ought to be a very distinct explanation of the reason for the appointment of another officer. You require thirty-three people, independent of the minister himself, to superintend the clerical part of the expenditure of about \$1,250,000 all told. I have known businesses of vastly larger extent conducted by half a dozen people. All these men, too, are very highly paid. Deducting the messengers, there are twenty-nine gentlemen drawing \$43,000, which represents an average salary of about \$1,500 apiece. I think, under the circumstances, we should know who this extra gentleman is, and what is the reason of his employment.

Mr. FOSTER. It is the promotion from the third class to the second class of a gentleman who has been at the top of his class for some time. His place is filled by a third-class clerk coming in at the minimum salary.

Mr. McMULLEN. If the hon. minister will look at page A-78 of the Auditor-General's Report, he will find several cases of the class I have mentioned. For instance, Lieut.-Col. Irwin, inspector of artillery, who gets a salary of \$2,300, is paid in addition, as commandant of batteries, for 366 days at \$1.25 per day, amounting to \$457.50. On the same page the hon. gentleman will find several cases of the same kind. I do think this whole question of extra pay should receive some action at the hands of the Government. Every year it is getting worse. Every man, the moment he is installed in office, seems to try to get some hook whereon he can hang a claim for extra pay, and very generally he gets it.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I thought the Government had expressly stated that they were going to put a complete stop to the system of extra pay.

Mr. FOSTER. That is quite true. My hon. friend is speaking of a class of officers entirely outside of the departments at Ottawa, and, in nearly every case I believe there is the best of reasons for the double pay, that is, the reason of economy. For instance, on a canal there is a man who acts as lockmaster, but you want some one to collect the tolls, and, instead of appointing another man for that purpose, you allow the lockmaster a slight addition for doing that