

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think it would be better to deal with this resolution on its own merits, not raising the question which my hon. friend (Mr. Sutherland) has raised. That question can be raised at any time and can be considered by the House. But I may just say that, so far as I am able to judge, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, representing the Militia Department, has already said that the Government may require to ask the House for more liberal consideration on this account than is proposed in this resolution; and I am quite certain that anything that the Government feel obliged to call upon the House for would be responded to in a very generous and liberal spirit. The question the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) has raised is one of considerable importance. I am inclined to think that the gentlemen who have the good fortune to be selected are only too happy to perform this service to their country, and are only too happy to have the invitation upon such terms as the Government may provide for them, and that, in fact, if there were any gentlemen included in that arrangement who were not prepared to accept the terms that are offered, they would find a great number of volunteers who would be delighted to take their places upon the terms offered by the Government.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Perhaps it is well that I should mention for the information of the House that the Imperial authorities intend to provide not only barrack accommodation and rations for the non-commissioned officers and men, but barrack accommodation for the officers who may accompany the contingent. While I entirely agree that this is not a case for cheese-paring or undue economy, and while I shall not hesitate to ask the House for more money if I find it necessary. I am, as at present advised, inclined to think that the gentlemen who are appointed, who are mostly men of considerable rank and who will receive the pay of their rank, will be fairly well provided during the short time they will remain in England, which, I suppose, will not much exceed three weeks. However, I am glad to hear the expressions of the hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and, as I say, I shall not hesitate, in case of need, to ask the House for a further sum.

Resolution reported, and read the second time.

#### WAYS AND MEANS.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). It is desirable, as the House has been kind enough to accept this item without debate, that we should proceed to carry it through as many stages as possible. Therefore I move that the House resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means to consider the following resolution:—

Resolved, That towards making good the Supply granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year ending the 30th June, 1897, the sum of \$26,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada.

Resolution considered in committee, reported, and read the second time.

#### INTERIM SUPPLY BILL.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 111) for granting to Her Majesty the sum of \$26,000 required for defraying certain expenses of the militia contingent to be sent to England for the Jubilee of Her Majesty in June, 1897.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first and second times.

#### SUPPLY—THE AMERICAN BANK NOTE PRINTING COMPANY'S CONTRACT.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the House goes into Committee of Supply, I wish to call the attention of the members present to some circumstances in connection with the granting of the contract for printing the bank notes, the inland revenue stamps, postal cards, stamps, &c., for the use of the Government. There are certain things in connection with this which I think merit the attention of all the members of this House, and it shall be my endeavour to put the facts of the case in as short and lucid a statement as I possibly can. It is a proper ambition, I think, for every country to be the maker of its own currency so far as that can possibly be done, and the mere accident or incident of more or less relative cheapness is not to be taken into account very largely in carrying out what is, on the whole and in principle, laudable and correct. On this assumption, at least, the Dominion of Canada has gone from the time that it was a Dominion; and at the time of confederation when, by the constitution, this power came to it, it took up the old line of policy of preparing the paper currency, stamps and the like for the service of the Government, in Canada itself. From 1866 this has been done, and been done, I believe, by one firm, and from 1868 when the Dominion came to take this matter in charge, it has been consecutively carried out on the same line and under the same management, but with certain changes and gradations, of course, which were incident to the changed conditions from one quinquennial period to another, for a period of five years has generally been the term of the contract. The notes—to confine myself to that—because where notes are made the other supplies are made, and by the same person—the notes at first were made in the city of