

sion 5,630 pages, showing an increase of nearly 1,500 pages. They had been conducting the largely extended business of the country with a staff reduced by seventeen clerks from its former standard, and any large further reduction would render it impossible to continue to discharge it efficiently, and would result in the loss of the substance in grasping at the shadow (hear, hear). He proceeded to speak in high terms of the eminent abilities and the great parliamentary knowledge possessed by the clerk (Captain Lindsay) who was gifted in a high degree with the peculiar accomplishments which went to make up his specialty, who was acquainted intimately with the precedent and practice of his department, who was master of two languages, and whose duties forbade him to leave the House except weekly, and compelled his attention to close work two hours every night after the House rose. To reduce the salary of such a public servant who had held the position for years, would be in the highest degree unjust and impolitic. He also considered it a mistake to interfere with the remuneration of the Law Clerk, whose professional attainments he highly eulogised, and although knowing the officials of the House well enough to be satisfied with their honourable anxiety to perform their duties faithfully at all times and under all circumstances (hear, hear), deprecated their being placed in such a position as might reasonably cause them dissatisfaction. He specially regretted that the committee had not only recommended the reduction to be effected by the dismissal of so many employees, but had gone a step further, and proceeded to excuse all the functions of the Speaker on the premises, and indicated by name those whom they desired to discharge (hear, hear.) For his part he shrank from the necessity sought to be imposed upon him, of selecting from among the public servants those who were to be thrown out of employment, without any notice or any compensation, in a manner unknown to any respectable mercantile institution of the country. (Applause.) He stated distinctly that the proposal to amalgamate the offices of Journals and Votes and Proceedings, was one which would not work, and the contemplated postponement of the compilation of journals to the recess, would be an absurdity. He was as desirous of any member of the Committee, to see all reasonable retrenchment effected, but if in addition to the seventeen clerks already dispensed with, they were called upon to lose the services of so many more, he warned the House that at the close of the

session, when work was found to press heavily, the staff so attenuated would be incapable of performing it. In conclusion, he said that although he would endeavour, as he best might, to carry out the system as proposed by the Committee, were it to be adopted, he must protest against the principle of dismissing without acknowledgment, gentlemen whose services were valuable, and against whose conduct, in the discharge of their duties, no reproach had been ever urged. (Much applause.)

**Mr. Blanchet** said economy was the order of the day, and he was in favour of it as regarded both this House and the departments. But the dismissal of half a dozen clerks was not necessarily economy. He could not give his approval to recommendations of this report. It was proposed that the number of French translators be reduced. Any one who was familiar with the duties which devolved upon these gentlemen must be aware that their number was not too great. It was all very well for members to speak of economy; but if they were in earnest it would be still better for them to show an example. If salaries were to be reduced, let the reduction embrace the indemnity of members themselves. (Hear, hear).

**Mr. Bodwell** said the Speaker, in stating that the business of this House was greater than that of the old Legislative Assembly of Canada, had gone against the view which had been generally presented in the discussion on Confederation, that the business of the general Parliament and its expenditure would be less than those of the Provincial Parliament. In taking this ground, the Speaker had failed to inform the committee that the present was an exceptional session, and that the amount of legislation was very much greater than could be expected in ordinary sessions. The Speaker had spoken very pathetically of the hardships that would result to employees of the House by the reduction of their salaries, and of the suffering that would be caused to messengers by cutting them down to \$600. But he had shown no sympathy for the poor man in the backwoods of equal abilities, intelligence, and attainments with these men who were working for 75 cents and \$1 a day, and paying 20 per cent on the articles he consumed in order to keep up this extravagance at Ottawa.

**Mr. Casault**, after the calm and very striking statement by the Speaker, that he had carried retrenchment as far as was consistent

[Mr. Speaker, the Hon. James Cockburn (Northumberland West)]