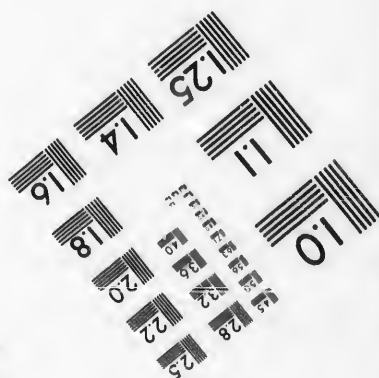
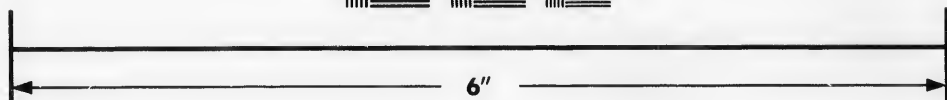
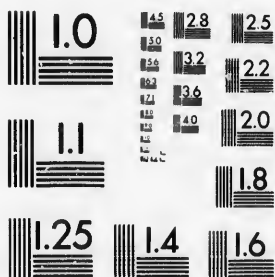


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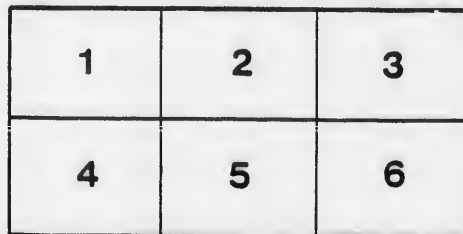
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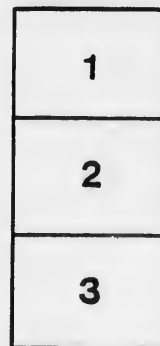
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REMARKS  
ON THE  
**DUTIES AND SALARIES**  
OF THE  
OFFICERS OF THE COMMONS,  
CONSIDERED WITH RESPECT TO A GENERAL REDUCTION.

Economy, qualified with the cutting designation, retrenchment, is the order of the day; the question stands pre-eminent; everything depends on its being carried out; it engages serious minds, and constitutes itself a subject of grave consideration; it absorbs every important matter, and thrusts itself upon statesmen who look upon it with mistrust, in consequence of the injustice and misery which it frequently entails; it strives to commend itself to the press of the country, which meets it with a decided negative; and lastly it persuasively offers itself to members who, before meeting it face to face, would wish to know its past history, and consider the guarantee which it offers for the future.

Its history we write here. Stripped of its delusive belongings we present it to the careful examination and cool reasoning of our political men, with the hope that they may appreciate and distinguish the difference between true economy and the transitory economy which comes into existence to lay to pass away to-morrow.

To the Representatives of the people we especially address ourselves; we ask them to read the following lines and to consider them before sitting in judgment in a case which interests, to an important degree, those children of the people who have devoted their energies to the public service. And in speaking of the children of the people we use no incorrect term; formerly, when education was in its infancy, to the privileged class belonged by right the distribution or rather the monopoly of patronage; now that the equilibrium is restored, now that education is imparted to all, the children of the people have penetrated the sanctuary which in other days was closed to them. As such, therefore, we ask to be heard.

Strong in the justice of their cause they ask no favor other than that they may be judged according to their deserts. Reason, enlightened by the teachings of the past, will with ease distinguish between two systems of economy,—one founded on reasons of state and on justice, and the other based on parsimony and ruin; good-will will do the rest.

POSITION OF PUBLIC OFFICERS IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

It is universally admitted that administrative organization is most intimately connected with the social organization of a country. This principle is so essentially correct that most of the European Governments have vied with each other in taking steps to protect their officers. Thus England, Holland, Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony and Belgium have thought it right to provide retiring allowances for the servants of the State. In Canada, on the contrary, nothing can be more uncertain than the position in which public officers are placed. Exposed to all the vicissitudes consequent upon precarious employ-

ment, with difficulty, if at all, can they make any saving to protect their old age from want. The victims of misfortune, of physical infirmity, or of an outcry for retrenchment, they may be dismissed without indemnity; and, after devoting all their youth and all their energy to the public service, may find themselves in the street without support, without sympathy, and often the objects of the cutting irony of those who once envied them their position.

And let it not be thought that this is pure fiction, the invention of a too vivid imagination; the fact exists in all its stern reality. See that blind man led by the hand of a little child who supports him; he is an old official, he lost his sight in the full activity of duty; for fourteen long years he conscientiously fulfilled his daily task; he wore himself out in consideration of a small salary; misfortune came upon him and he was dismissed; that is to say, after profiting by his labour, after having had the benefit of his services and his experience, he was coldly discarded like a useless and worn-out piece of furniture.

As a contrast, let us turn to France and hear what Mr. Benoist has to say as to the salaries assigned to Officers in that country. He addresses the *Chambre des Députés*:—

“I do not purpose to enter at length into the question which is before the House. It appears to me that a great principle is involved here, and that we are about to vote on matters most seriously affecting our administrative organization; I may almost say, our social organization, for all know the relative position that administrative organization occupies with regard to our social organization.

“The question is this:—

“Does the State owe to its employé's proper remuneration during service, and again proper means of existence when, after service, they are no longer in a condition to perform any duty?

“As to the question thus put, there can be no doubt: To me it is most clearly evident that to the State this is a moral question, a question of efficient service, and further, a question of economy.

“So closely does the State calculate the salaries which it gives to its employé's, that it must further calculate that those salaries have to serve two purposes: the present support of the man who serves it, and the possible existence of the man, when he is no longer able to serve it.”

In England a statesman and financier of the highest distinction, Mr. Gladstone, again proved that one may hold high rank in the politics of his country, without by consequence ceasing to be a protector to those whom Providence has placed under his control. In the House of Commons, in 1857, on the subject of the remuneration of public officers, he said:

“It is greatly to be desired that public officers should be contented and happy, for nothing in the world can be more truly prejudicial to the public service than a feeling of general discontent, consequent upon absolute destitution or an idea of injustice. I know by experience that in Russia and other foreign countries, the great calamity which proves fatal to the very germ of governmental life, is the existence of a body of public functionaries who are underpaid, discontented and corrupt. In this country we stand in no danger of corruption in that direction, but if we do not treat our public servants with justice and equity, we must not be astonished if we have one day to chronicle a relaxation of zeal and energy in the public service. To exhibit parsimony towards persons employed in the departments of the public service is an erroneous and vicious principle.”

#### IS THE DIMINUTION OF SALARIES JUSTIFIABLE?

Having demonstrated that public employment in Canada is a service which is often ungrateful, and one which exposes those who engage in it to many mortifications, let us now consider the question of the diminution of salary to which it is proposed to subject the officers in the service of the House of Commons. Is it just, is it equitable, is it humane, in view of there being no retiring fund, to subject to a tax of twelve and a half per cent. the salaries of servants who are faithful, trustworthy, and devoted? To this there can be no hesitation in replying in the negative, the decision resting upon facts which cannot be disproved.

Now, either these officers are useful, able and zealous, or they are quite the reverse. If it can be proved that these employé's are indispensable, and that they do their duty well; that among them there are men of known value, men of special attainments whom it would

be difficult to replace, why brand them with a penalty,—for every penalty is a brand? On the other hand, if they are useless, incapable and good for nothing, why, if the system which has been adopted with regard to the infirm is to prevail, not dismiss them without scruple and replace them by more able men for whom too high a price could not be paid? Now, we contend that the staff of the House of Commons is composed of men of great ability, who will compare advantageously with officers of the same class in any part of the world. This we shall presently show. In the meantime let us be permitted to offer in a concise manner, the few following reasons, in order to show the injustice of inflicting such severe chastisement on these victims of their good faith.

1st. Of the present employés of the House of Commons, the greater number have followed Parliament in all its peregrinations, from 1811 to 1867. What does this amount to? The route will show: From Kingston to Montreal; from Montreal to Toronto; from Toronto to Quebec; from Quebec to Toronto; from Toronto to Quebec; and then from Quebec to Ottawa. We ask merchants, who have become rich, lawyers, notaries, and medical men, in what condition their finances would now be if, for twenty-six years, they had been the victims of such a perambulatory system? And more; wherever their evil star leads them, high prices accompany them. Scarcely had they set foot in Toronto, when houses letting for £20 a year at once rose to £50; the same obtained at Quebec; then come taxes, which well-organized municipal administrations seem to increase on purpose for them. At last Providence, still watching over their lot, brings them to Ottawa, after many discomforts and losses. The Capital is not rich; trade is, comparatively, undeveloped; rents are doubled, and the taxes (more than 25 cents on the dollar) are exorbitant, but there are means of escape—building lots are not dear. Many public officers at once buy land, and enter into contracts for the erection of permanent residences for themselves; everything seems to be going on satisfactorily, when once more their hopes are dashed, for they are threatened by a fresh calamity—their salaries are to be diminished by 12½ per cent., and several are to be dismissed. In such a case, what is to be done? How are they to fulfil their obligations to builders, architects, and others? Bankruptcy stares them in the face; there is no escape; the evil is without remedy. If the scheme of reduction is adopted, their ruin is no longer a problem, it is an unavoidable certainty.

2nd. There is now before Parliament a measure to fix the positions and salaries of persons employed in the civil service. By that law the remuneration of those officers is to be increased as they are promoted. Thus, the salary of each deputy-head of a department will amount in all to £850, or more; the salaries of chief officers to £550, and those of first-class clerks to £450, and so downwards. If, therefore, the reduction, which it is proposed to make in the salaries of the officers of the Commons, is carried into effect, the latter will be placed in a position of marked inferiority. Thus, the deputy head of the Commons (Mr. Lindsay) will receive a smaller salary than any deputy-head in the civil service; a chief officer (such as Mr. Hartney, or Mr. Badgley) will receive less than a chief officer in the civil service; a special officer (Mr. Wicksteed, of the Law Department, or Mr. Todd, of the Library) will receive a smaller amount of remuneration than that awarded to any officer, with special attainments, in the civil service. Again; the Civil Service Act plainly provides that salaries of persons now employed shall remain to them intact during good behaviour. This fact alone shows the immense advantage conferred on the latter over the former, whose salaries have to follow all the variations of the political thermometer—and are liable to modification at the commencement of every Parliament, and, even, at every session.

3. The exorbitant price of the necessaries of life is an incontrovertible fact. To know what it costs to live in the capital, one must have been a householder in that city. A careful and exact calculation of rents, taxes, the cost of market produce and of all necessary articles will show that the average cost of living is 15 per cent greater than in any other city in Canada. This is susceptible of proof by figures which cannot be disputed.

Certainly nothing more can be required to prove the proposition which is under consideration: that a reduction, at the present time, of the relatively low salaries of the officers of the House of Commons would be unjustifiable; yet the following words of Mr. Pasqualis, one of the most remarkable men in France may be here quoted.

“I am of those who consider that the economy which bears upon salaries is false in principle; that Civil Officers must be well paid; that it is more to our advantage to have a small number of able and well paid employes than a large number of ill-paid and less

efficient officers. I would [exact greater guarantees of capacity from those functionaries in return for greater guarantees to them of their security in their positions.

"It is of high importance to the Government to surround itself with men of foresight who will bring to the performance of their public duties the same care that they display in the management of their private affairs. Will such men enter upon a way of life which will only afford them salaries insufficient to allow of their laying up any savings which might serve them for their support, when at the termination of their labours they find themselves deprived of the means of livelihood? During the performance of public duties a salary increasing as the Officer becomes more capable and does his duty better thus serves as an incitement to well-doing, and as an encouragement to emulation."

#### THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC AND ITS OFFICERS.

A fact worthy of note and one contrasting strangely with the scheme of reduction submitted to the House, is the simultaneous action of the Governments of Quebec and Ontario in maintaining intact the salaries of the old employés who came to them from the General Government. The Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec (Hon. Mr. Chauveau), who warmly supported the cause of the officers in question with that eloquence and powerful logic which all acknowledge him to possess, was followed by the Hon. Mr. Dunkin. This public man, the friend of Canadians of all origins, courageously faced the question of the just claims of officers in the course of that clear and brilliant financial statement which so justly caused him at once to take a high position as a deeply thinking financier. Words so full of human feeling fall pleasantly on the ear. Speaking of the Officers of the Crown Lands Department transferred from Ottawa, he said:

"The House may as well know this Department is one we had to take from the Dominion at Ottawa. It bears on the establishment several gentlemen, old servants of the Department, whose salaries under the Civil Service Act had grown even beyond the ordinary Ottawa scale. They came to us, and we had to determine whether we would refuse to take them, or any considerable number of them, or cut down their salaries in a manner which, suddenly done, might have been cruelty; because some of those gentlemen are old and very faithful public servants. (Cheers.) \* \* \* But we felt it our duty not to yield to what may be unreasonable or unfounded clamor for a reduction of salaries as against men who were thrown on us, and who have served the country a long time, and of whose abilities we were bound to make the best use we could. \* \* \* But there is no use in my pretending to this House that the public business can be well done unless we have got men enough to do it. It is my business to have the public accounts carefully kept, and all manner of outside accounts thoroughly audited. Do you mean to tell me that if I find it requires eight or ten persons to do the work, well I am serving the public interest in leaving it to six or seven? The thing is absurd; you must have the necessary number of men, and good men; for a bad man is worse than no man at all; and to get good men you must pay them a fair price." (Cheers.)

We cannot better conclude this part of our subject than by quoting the following words which are found in the address of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec (Hon. Mr. Blanchet) to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor on the occasion of the prorogation Parliament; this is one of those official declarations which, in such matters, bear with great weight on the minds of rightly thinking men:—

"We have with much pleasure voted the supplies required for the civil service, charitable institutions, education and other wants of the Province. While we admit that the circumstances in which we are placed exact from us extreme prudence, we are of opinion that there is no true economy in refusing what the efficiency of the public service and the fair remuneration of the public servants require from us.

#### A GLANCE AT THE DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The changes which the Constitutional Act of necessity wrought in the working of the administrative organization, did not fail to entail, as was expected, a very considerable increase in the work of the several departments of the House of Commons. Thus, in certain of them the work has been doubled and trebled. For the information of new members, who are not, as yet, initiated in all the inner mechanism by which the work of the House



is carried on, it may not be out of place here to give a summary of the work which has to be done in each department; the following observations will also serve to throw light on all the bearings of the scheme of reduction which has been lately submitted to them:

*Clerk.*

The Clerk of the Commons has many and important duties to perform; his responsibility is very great. He has the direct control of all the officers in the service of the House. He is responsible for all errors of omission or of commission, which may occur in the performance of the duties intrusted to each individual officer. During the sittings of the House he takes minutes of the proceedings; he is charged with the duty of interpreting into both languages all motions, resolutions, &c., under discussion; he watches over the working of every branch of the service. He controls the expenditure of the moneys voted by the House, and is responsible for it. In a word, he is the principal moving power of the inner mechanism of the House, and he is bound to see that all is done with exactitude and despatch. Mr. Lindsay has served for many years, and the tribute of praise, which he received at time of his appointment, and the confidence in him displayed by the Privy Council in continuing him in the performance of the duties of his office, render it unnecessary for us to add another word to the foregoing remarks. Mr. Lindsay is assisted by Mr. Patrick, who, for thirty-two years, has diligently devoted himself to the performance of his duty; to this latter gentleman is also intrusted the management of the Department of Controverted Elections. Before the Union a third clerk had a seat at the table, but these two gentlemen have, in pursuance of an economical system, taken upon themselves the performance of the duties formerly discharged by him.

*The Law Department.*

This Department, which also includes the two offices of translation, is presided over by Mr. Wicksteed. It is hardly necessary to say that Mr. Wicksteed is one of the most well-known men in Canada. There is not a judge, not a lawyer, not a notary, to whom his name is not familiar. He is the soul of our statute law, the *Deus ex machina* of our legislation. Well might the regretted and illustrious Sir L. H. Lafontaine characterise him one of the best juriconsults in the country. So great has been the confidence reposed in him by consecutive Governments, that successively he was appointed Queen's Counsel, Commissioner for the revision of the Statutes in 1842, Commissioner for the consolidation of the Statutes of Canada, of Upper Canada, and of Lower Canada, Commissioner for the regulation of the postal subsidy, &c. He prepares the measures of the Government and those which are presented by individual Members. The amount of work performed by him is enormous; to another possessing neither his aptitude, nor his great experience, the task would appear beyond performance. Mr. Wicksteed is assisted by Messrs. Badgley and Dorian, who are also the heads of the two offices of translation. Mr. Badgley is most favorably known and his worth appreciated by all who interest themselves in the labour of legislation. Sir John A. Macdonald specially signified the confidence which he reposed in him by associating him with Messrs. Wicksteed and Bernard in the important work of consolidating the Criminal Law of the Dominion.

*The Translators.*

The task assigned to the translators is a most ungrateful one, and one which is greatly misunderstood, for work of this kind is done in solitude and apart from observation.—The man who aspires to be a translator must be well versed in both languages, must be deeply learned in all the laws, and in everything more or less closely connected with legislation; he must have a good classical education, and more, an iron constitution, for there is no rest, either by day or by night, for the translator. The effects of long hours, constant study and the continual stretch on which the mind is kept, rapidly thin the ranks of these officers, who, on an average, pass away and are replaced by others every fourteen years. Their labours consist of the translation of Departmental Reports, Laws, Bills, Reports of Committees, Returns to Addresses, Petitions, Votes and Proceedings, Journals, &c.

One day's work by a translator is equal to two ordinary days, and their labours are indefinitely continued during the recess. Since the 1st July last, the French translators'

office alone has translated 4,500 pages, and a proportionate amount of translation has been performed by the English translators.

Nearly every translation necessitates great previous study and research, which from their special and technical nature, entail as much labour as the work of translation itself.

The saving effected by the translators in reading over their manuscript before sending it to the printer is very great; but in doing so they impose upon themselves a great deal of extra labour.

The scheme of reduction submitted to the House, besides the diminution of salary, recommends that one French translator should be removed from the list. Now, if those who are really in a position to throw some light on the subject had been consulted, it would have been clearly shown that far from diminishing the salaries of those officers, it would be but just to increase them, and that far from taking from their number, it is a matter of urgent necessity to add two or three competent men to the office.

It is well not to lose sight of the fact that the first necessity in this Department is to have men possessed of special attainments, who cannot be too highly paid, as is clearly proved by the following extract taken from the *Courrier du Canada* of the 10th February, 1857. That paper was then edited by two men whom Canada is proud to enrol among the most illustrious of her children, the Hon. H. L. Langevin and the Chevalier Taché, Deputy of the Minister of Agriculture:—

“While we are considering the subject of the translation into French of the greater part of the Parliamentary documents, we may take the opportunity of impressing upon the public and our representatives the importance of the French Translators’ Department. We must not for an instant lose sight of the fact that these gentlemen are the guardians of the French language in everything that relates to the publication of public documents; if, therefore, it is necessary to require of them the greatest regard for purity of language, they must not be left unprovided with one of the means necessary for the performance of their difficult duty. For we maintain that these gentlemen, who are all men of education and of great talent, are not placed in a position to discharge their important functions with satisfaction; they have, in the first place, far too much work to do during the session, especially to be able to do it with all possible care; and next they have not been provided with the dictionaries and other books on special subjects which they require; the translators’ library ought to be complete in this respect; we are speaking from personal knowledge, having for ten years past had constant intercourse with the Department in question. Let us not forget that the French translators’ office in the House is to us as a national institution; let us therefore see that its organization is perfect.”

#### *Library.*

Mr. Alpheus Todd, a deeply read bibliophile, the first Canadian who has written on the constitutional history of our country, and produced a work which has made a sensation in England, is the head of this Department. He it is whom Members consult when in need of a precedent calculated to influence the decisions of the House; he it is who is quoted, and whose opinion is at all times respected; he is, in fact, an authority. Mr. Gerin-Lajoie, whose writings do so great honor to the French of Canada, is a gentleman whose services in this Department are well known to be of great value. His deep research and great learning admirably fit him to discharge, on behalf of the French portion of the representation, the duties so ably performed by Mr. Todd for the English portion. Mr. Laperrière is one of the most zealous and painstaking officers of the House; his collections of the debates and Parliamentary precedents afford the very greatest assistance to Members.

#### *Accountants’ Office.*

This branch is superintended, most satisfactorily, by two highly competent officials. It is more than a mere office—it is a bank. Hence, the responsibility connected with this department is very great. From the commencement of the year to its close, the only two officers employed in it are engaged in the despatch of business.

#### *Department of Committees and Private Bills.*

Mr. Alfred Todd is at the head of this department. It is he who has organized it in accordance with the system adopted in England.

The different works on the subject, published by this valuable officer, give evidence of his profound knowledge of all matters connected with it. The duties performed in this department are numerous, and of a special nature—relating, as they do, more particularly to the regulation of individual interests by means of Legislative intervention. To Mr. Todd is, also, intrusted the direction of all the committees, which, in itself, is a most arduous duty. Mr. T. Patrick, the well-known Clerk of the Railway Committee, is highly appreciated by those who have conferred upon our country its magnificent iron roads. Messrs. Blanchet and Panet are, likewise, highly useful in this department—to which they are attached.

#### *Printing Department.*

Mr. Hartney, the chief of this department, is a man among many, and a most valuable officer. He, and he only, has successfully carried out all the economy effected in this branch of the service. We may cite one fact in support of this assertion. We quote from Appendix No. 1, to the Journals of 1864 :

From January 1856, to January 1860, the Legislative printing cost.....	\$608,104 15
From January 1860, to January 1864, the same printing cost only.....	122,136 44
	<hr/>
Saving effected in four years.....	\$485,967 71

The saving effected in the stationery furnished to the House is as follows :—

From 1861 to 1863 the stationery cost.....	\$42,778 80
From 1864 to 1866 it cost only.....	19,592 91
	<hr/>
Saving effected .....	\$23,185 85
Showing a saving in each session of .....	5,185 47

Let us note that this reform is entirely due to Mr. Hartney without the intervention of the Printing Committee.

This fact once more demonstrates that to effect real economy the only means to be adopted is to have zealous officers and therefore well paid officers.

The general report of the Printing Committee of the present session states in so many words "to Mr. Hartney this reform is principally due."

Mr. Sloane, attached to this department, manages the distribution of the stationery with zeal and the strictest economy.

#### *General Department.*

This department is composed of copying clerks; in it are prepared copies of documents &c., entailing a very considerable amount of labour.

#### *Controverted Elections.*

A most important branch in the service of the House. The correct performance of the duties of clerk of the Controverted Elections Committee requires great discretion, a profound knowledge of law and especially of that relating to the subject under consideration; to those who know Mr. Leprohon it will be quite needless to say that he is possessed of all the qualifications required of the sub-chief of such a department.

#### *Journals and Votes and Proceedings.*

The work done in these departments, which we have placed under the same heading, is very various and complicated. Messrs. Ross and Rivet prepare the Journals in both languages, a duty which entails upon them a vast amount of work to discharge it in the effectual and satisfactory manner in which they do; in the Journal Office also, are indexed and kept for the ready reference of Members during the session in which they are presented, all returns to addresses and documents laid before the House. Here, also, all petitions are endorsed and entered in books kept for the purpose. Messrs. Ross and Rivet

are assisted in the performance of these various and arduous duties by Messrs. Taylor and Belecourt. Mr. Poëtter prepares the Votes and Proceedings of the House; he is responsible for the correct performance of that duty, which is by no means an unimportant one.

*Mr. Speaker's Secretary.*

Through this officer, who is also an English translator, the instructions and decisions of Mr. Speaker are expressed. To fill this office a man of great intelligence, well versed in the law, familiar with Parliamentary usages, and able in every way to discharge the important duty intrusted to him, is required. The correspondence which passes through this department is of itself sufficient to keep him fully occupied. It is needless to state that Mr. Macaulay has given proof to all of his ability to perform the duties of his office.

*Department of Routine and Records.*

In this office the distribution of all Parliamentary documents takes place; the officials employed in it are also intrusted with the duty of filing and preserving the originals of petitions, documents, &c. Mr. McGillivray, the head of this department, who also prepares the Orders of the Day, has done much to render its organization complete. The Messenger charged with the preservation of the records, Mr. Botterel, is a most deserving servant.

*Department of the Sergeant-at-Arms.*

Mr. Macdonell, under whose control this department is placed, has a most difficult task to perform and one which necessitates the most careful superintendence; besides the duties he performs within the precincts of the Chamber, he controls the internal economy of the House, and is responsible for the furniture and all articles contained in the Parliament building. This is a heavy duty, well discharged by an excellent officer.

Mr. Cardinal is an old servant of the former House of Assembly. He is the faithful custodian of all the archives; he is specially charged with the direction of the Messengers; he is responsible for the regularity with which all messages are delivered, and for the perfect order maintained in the interior of the building. He is an indispensable and most valuable official. He is assisted by a certain number of Messengers, who perform their duties with despatch and punctuality; these servants have much more heavy duties to discharge than before the union.

*Post Office.*

Remarks are unnecessary. Members are in position to know how well the postal service of the House is performed.

CONCLUSION.

We think we have completely demonstrated the proposition which we undertook to prove, viz., that it would be impolitic, under existing circumstances, to inflict a reduction of salary upon the Officers of the House of Commons; and that the means and the only effective means of securing true economy in the service of the House is to employ able, honest, faithful and thoroughly competent officers: that the zeal of the latter must of necessity increase in proportion to the confidence placed in them by the House; that the staff of the House of Commons is composed of intelligent and devoted men, a fact which Mr. Speaker, above all, is in a position in case of need to confirm; and lastly that the adoption of the Report of the Committee on Contingencies will have the effect of partially ruining a large number, of turning several into the street without compensation, and of inflicting on all undeserved disgrace and injury in return for their long service, their unceasing labour and their solicitude for the public well-being.

We think we have set forth plainly and without exaggeration the flagrant injustice which would be done them, not only in depriving them of a large proportion of their salaries, but also in placing them in a position greatly inferior to that which the officers of the civil service will occupy in virtue of the Bill which is shortly to become law. And we have no hesitation in declaring that if the proposed number of officers are removed from

the service of the House a severe blow will be dealt to the active organization of the House. We therefore entreat Members most carefully to enquire into all the facts connected with the service of the House before sanctioning a measure, the carrying into effect of which will weigh so heavily on a class who have but their devotion to their duty to set against the severity with which it is proposed to treat them.

Eloquent men, distinguished men, of England and France, have looked at the question from our point of view; volumes have been written on the subject in both countries; proving that the highest importance is attached to the intimate relations which exist between administrative and social organization. But why go beyond our own Dominion, already so great and so respected, to seek in other lands men of kindly hearts who have constituted themselves the protectors of the public servants?

One of the most celebrated of the children of the Green Isle, he, to whom the Hon. Mr. Chauveau referred as the king of eloquence in Canada; he, who has so lately gone down to the grave, struck by the hand of the cowardly assassin; he, whom we all deplore—the Martyr Member—the Hon. Thomas D'Arcy McGee, ever faithful to his trust—as the defender of the feeble—did not hesitate to take under his protection these same officers of the Commons the instant he foresaw the danger which impended over them. This statesman, who had twice been a Minister of the Crown, well knew the sacrifices which the country ought to make in compensation for the labour and the zeal of those who devote their lives and their energies to the public service. For many years he had been in a position, as a Legislator, to appreciate at their true value the services of the present officers of the House of Commons. And when circumstances called for it, he was the first to stand in the breach, when he became aware that the scheme of reduction, now submitted for consideration, contained within it the germ of injustice. Let us listen to the words, so full of affectionate feeling, which he uttered on the very night when the fearful tragedy, which put a violent end to his well spent days, was enacted. At the conclusion of the sitting, at half-past two in the morning, a few minutes before his tragic end, he said to the Clerk assistant, Mr. A. Patrick: "My dear sir, you know that I have done my best to defeat the scheme of reduction, which the Contingent Committee have adopted; the majority have decided against me; but tell your brother officers that when the question comes up for discussion in the House, I shall be there to defend them."

No comment on these words can be necessary; they are a sacred legacy left to the House by one of its most distinguished Members. We hope it will be as carefully treasured up as it deserves to be.

