

Mr. SMITH.—That is a new way to get support for the Government—(laughter). I think they could get all they require if they put such questions to other hon. members. The hon. member of the Government from Saint John (Mr. Wilmot) is very much opposed to small salaries. He wanted the salary of the Auditor General to be kept up, whereas now it is shown that the duties can be performed for two or three hundred dollars a year. I have no doubt that the hon. member is a Senator by this time, and I am very anxious to see whether, when the Proclamation comes,—if it does not break the other cable, for it is said the news was so weighty that it broke down the cable of 1866,—if he will resign his seat in this House. He is the most extravagant man I ever knew, and thinks officers can't get too large salaries till they become rogueish. I shall second the motion for £400, but I do not think a clerk will be needed.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT.—I am sure I have nothing to gain by desiring the salary to be £500. I have brought in motions to have salaries reduced, but I say that after the salaries of the Deputy Treasurers were reduced there were large defalcations, and there were none before. I am sure I do not know in what I am extravagant, unless it be that I would rather have a good man in the office, and pay him well, than have a poor one at a low rate. With regard to the Senatorship and my seat in this House, the hon. member may rest assured that I shall not resign until I know more about the matter than he does now.

Mr. SMITH.—The hon. member says there were no defalcations under the high salary arrangement, but I remember the case of a man named Bailey, who was Surveyor General, and got a salary of I don't know how much—£1200, I believe,—who embezzled the public money to the extent of thousands of pounds, and who was after all granted a pension of £500 a year; so that there is nothing in the principle he lays down, at all.

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—This arrangement, as I have said, is only for a few months, and then it must be revised to suit the requirements of the Province under Union, and the difference for that time will be very small. I am in favor of the larger sum, but am not particular, as it will not be binding to those who come after us.

Mr. LINDSAY.—There was a man who held the position of Surveyor General, who said that the salary was so large he did not know how to spend it, and wanted £100 taken off, but it could not be done. (Laughter). The Attorney General was, I think, in the government at the time. I would like to ask the hon. member of the Government (Mr. Wilmot) what his idea of the salary of

the Auditor General is now? There was Surveyor General Bailey, who got so great a salary that he had to keep horses and carriages, and men to look after them, to spend it; and when any one wanted to see him he was always just going for a drive, and they had to wait for him. The clerks have to do all the work in that office now, and I think the head of the department won't be wanted any more. As to the work of the Receiver General, it will be very light, and he won't need a clerk. He will only have to be in his office from 9 o'clock till 3, or so, and he certainly won't want to go out much during that time. I think the bonds he is required to give (\$10,000) are too large, but it does not make much difference as they will never be collected. It is well known that directly a man has embezzled money and gone off, a sympathy is got up for the bondsmen, and after a time the bonds are cancelled. That has always been the case, and it will be so. Plenty of good men can be found to take the office at £400, but it seems that directly "General" is put on to a name, some hon. members think the salary should be raised.

The Amendment being put was carried in the affirmative, and the blank was filled with "sixteen hundred dollars."

The section referring to the appointment of a Clerk was then read.

Mr. SMITH.—I move that the section you have just read, Mr. Chairman, relating to the Clerk be struck out. The Attorney General says the Bill is only intended to be temporary, and will run but a few months, so that the duties of the office can be carried on. If so, then it will be best to leave to our successors the details of the matter, and they can supply a Clerk, if one is found to be needed.

Hon. Mr. TILLEY.—I think on the salary of the Receiver General it made very little difference whether the sum were put at £400 or £500, but with the heavy bonds which he will be required to give, it may not be so easy to find a man to fill the place. It has been said that the duties will be very light, but with regard to the Crown Lands alone, he will have to be in his office every hour in the day to receive the amounts as they are paid in, and pay out what may be required. Under these circumstances he will require a clerk, the salary need not be large, as in case of illness or other absence from the office, there must still be some one there to attend to the public business. Although the Receiver General may not be constantly engaged yet he will have to be constantly there, and a clerk will consequently be necessary to fill his place during forced absence. And one of probity and intelligence should be appointed as well as one able to obtain the necessary securities for the faithful performance of his duty.

Mr. SMITH.—That is a sharp idea to

put forth, that because a man may be taken sick, therefore he should have a clerk. In the same way the Registrars, the Deputy Treasurers and everybody else would want a clerk, but in such a case it is very easy to appoint a Deputy for the time being. I think all the duties can very well be performed by one man, but if it is found necessary a clerk can be appointed afterwards, say at the next Session. If the Government now put in a man as clerk, even though he may not be required, it is not probable that those who are left here at the next Session would displace him. It is exactly the same as if the salary had been placed at a high figure, for it would have been found very difficult to cut it down. It is for this reason that I move the section be struck out.

On putting the motion a division was called, when there appeared—

YEAS—Messrs. Kerr, Sutton, Hibbard, Landry, McInerney, Cane, McQueen, Smith, Young, Thompson, DesBrisay, Ryan, Lindsay, J. Flewelling and Babbitt. 15.

NAYS—Messrs. McEwan, McClellan, Beveridge, Dow, Deekwith, Quinton, Tilley, Connell, Wilmot, Williston, Fisher, McAdam and W. P. Flewelling. 13.

It was therefore carried in the affirmative.

The other sections passed without discussion.

PETITIONS, BILLS, ETC.

Hon. Mr. FISHER presented the Petition of the Municipal Councillors of the County of York, praying that they may be authorized to grant aid to the Fredericton Railway Company.

Petition received and laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. FISHER moved for the suspension of the rule to enable him to bring in a Bill to enable the Municipal Council of the County of York to grant aid to the Fredericton Railway Company in constructing a Railway from the city of Fredericton to Hart's Mills, in the said County, being a branch of Western Extension.

The rule was suspended, leave granted and the Bill being brought in was read a first time.

Mr. LINDSAY presented a Petition from D. Munroe, and fourteen others, inhabitants of the Parish of Woodstock, praying for the continuance of certain Acts relating to the Upper Woodstock Road district.

Petition received and laid on the table.

Mr. LINDSAY moved for leave to bring in a Bill to revive and continue certain Acts relating to the repair of Roads in the Upper Woodstock Road district, in the County of Carleton.

Leave granted, and the Bill being brought in was read a first time.