

again; by that time it will be known exactly what is required, and for this purpose the Bill is only intended to be of a temporary character. It may be found necessary to make the office political, but that could be better determined after a short experience. Some have suggested that the name of Treasurer, which we already have, would be just as good as this, but as the other Provinces have adopted the title of Receiver General for this officer, we have thought it best to adopt it also. It was thought best not to make the salary too high at first, and we have therefore put it down not to exceed two thousand dollars a year. If in this respect we may be found to have erred, it can easily be remedied at the end of six months or so. We have put down the Clerk's salary at (not to exceed) one thousand or twelve hundred dollars. As I said before, this Bill is only intended to be temporary, and to make provision for the carrying out of the necessary measures at the commencement of the Union, and at the next meeting of the House. When the wants of the country are known in this respect, and what the officer should be, any change can be made. All we now ask is that the House put confidence in the Government for that time with regard to this matter. As to the manner in which the accounts shall be kept, I find that in Nova Scotia, where they have established a similar office, they require that there should be one cash book kept, which is open for the inspection of the members of the Government and Legislature, and that I think is a good arrangement. The Government is not wedded to the plan which they have here laid down, but are willing to hear any suggestions which hon. members may please to suggest on the subject. The office is here made non-political, and is to be held during the pleasure of the Government. This, I think, is all that is necessary for me to say on the Bill. We only want to have a law so operative that none of the monies coming to us may be lost, and this Bill is so drawn as to run with the Bill of Union.

Mr. McQUEEN.—At first I thought this office was intended to be political, but I now find that it is only permissive. If the first intention had been carried out, I should most certainly have opposed it, for we have so many "Generals" now, that the funds coming to us out of the Union will not be sufficient to satisfy them all. As it is not intended to make the office of Receiver General political, however, I shall offer it no opposition, as it is evident that such an office will be required under the Union.

Mr. KERR.—I am glad to see the Bill which is in your hand, Mr. Chairman. At first it was intended that the office should be political, and I think it would be very wrong to place all our funds in the hands of a man who at any day is liable to go out of office. For many years our finances have been in the hands of a man, who has had the confidence of the whole country, and now that we are in a transition state, they should be as far removed from political trials and influences as possible. The officer to be appointed by this Bill will have to receive the funds remitted from Canada twice a year, the revenues from our Crown Lands and Export Duty on Lumber, and to pay them out for Bye Road and other appropriations. His duties will be less onerous than those of our present Treasurer, which have been well attended to, and accompanied by heavy responsibilities. That officer has never received more than £500 a year, and with the heavy sureties he has had to provide this sum was not too much. But now I think it might be reduced somewhat. In this connexion, too, I may say that as the number of members in the House will be considerably lessened, we shall be able to get rid of some of the heads of Departments. In Nova Scotia I find they have combined the offices of the Provincial and Financial Secretaries, and give a salary of £600. The office of Solicitor General is abolished, and the same thing can be done here, for there will be no necessity for two Crown officers. The salary of the Attorney General can also be reduced. His duties will be much lighter than they have been—the only cases which will occupy his attention are trespasses on the public domain, attending to crimes and criminals, and the recovery of debts due the Crown. His salary, therefore, can be greatly reduced. In Nova Scotia they have put it down to £400. I merely mention this in connexion with other matters, and shall be glad to see a Bill with this object brought in. There is one thing, however, I think should be inserted in this Bill, and that is, that the Receiver General be required to submit to the House a yearly statement of the funds passing through his hands. If the Bill had been intended to make this office political, it would have been a new feature to require him, as head of a department, to give security for the faithful performance of his duty.

Mr. LINDSAY.—I have a little suspicion of creating these new offices. It seems that the duties are to be decreased, but the offices increased, so that the less work there is to do, the more there will be to do it, and be paid for doing it. This

morning we passed a Bill to appoint officers to collect our export duties, who are to get a commission for it, and then hand the amounts over to the Receiver, who is to be paid for receiving them. I think that a good many of these offices are more for ornament than use, for I have found that, as a general rule, the clerks do all the work, and the heads of the department get the pay. I don't think there is any good in having so many men with "General" after their names. The Treasurer in Saint John now receives the funds which are collected all over the Province, and why can't he still do it in this case. Why not have all these money matters come into one man's hands? We have a Bill now before the House to reduce the representation all over the Province, but that will be useless if so many Generals are to remain on the floors of the House. We don't know anything about the New Dominion yet, and I think it will be just as well to let the matter stand over, at least till the Imperial Act is placed before us. There is now no need of a Surveyor General, for the clerks in the office can do all the work, and give whatever information is required. We have a Postmaster General, but it is said that the next in command below him is now all astray with his accounts, and he says that it is the fault of the clerks. I don't see why, when we have so many Generals, things should go so much astray if they were properly looked after. We shall now want a very large sum of money to put our Roads and Bridges in good order, and the money taken out for the purpose of keeping up the office of Receiver General would materially assist for that purpose. We want to open up new roads and prepare the way for an increased immigration, but we shall not be able to do so unless the expenses are cut off in other directions. I was talking to a Canadian a short time ago, who was down here to buy up wilderness lands; he said that in Canada they could not be obtained under a cost of seven dollars an acre, and I advised him to go to the Crown Land Office and see if he could not buy what he wanted here. The trouble with us is that all our wilderness lands lie on the Eastern side of the river, and cannot be got at except by crossing in a canoe or ferry of some sort.

A MEMBER.—I suppose you want to get that bridge put across at Woodstock.

Mr. LINDSAY.—Yes, and it cannot be done without money, which, if we go on increasing the public offices, will not be able to be obtained. I therefore think this Bill should be laid over, at least till we have the Imperial Act of Union laid before us.

Mr. BECKWITH.—I think, Mr. Chairman, this is a most sensible Bill;