

that it is a move in the right direction. Perhaps it might have been well for us to have known a little more about the Ottawa matter, but as that is not the question now before us, we will waive all that. Some think that it is an uncalled for expense to create this office and have one man to receive all the provincial funds. But I have found that it is a bad thing to have too many pockets, for in transferring the money from one to the other there is a great probability of its lessening every time, and hard to find some of it when it is wanted. And so if our revenues were left to be collected all over the Province by a number of officers, we should not be able to tell exactly how things were going on. But with this office everything come into one pocket, and can be got at whenever it is wanted. The office of the Receiver General should be in the neighborhood of the Crown Land Department, where it would be convenient to receive the sums paid in for our public domain. I really do think this is an absolutely necessary office. I am glad that it is not to be political, for then the officer would have to be engaged in attending to the general business of the country, while his clerks would be left to do the work of the office. With regard to the salary, I am not one that thinks it profitable to cut down the salaries of public officers to the lowest point, for when work is poorly paid for it is frequently poorly done, but I think if the Receiver General receives about sixteen hundred dollars, and his clerk six hundred dollars, it would be about the right thing.

Mr. HIBBARD.—I have sat here for some days and heard the murmurings about the Government not doing anything, but I am glad they are now going to work in earnest. I think this Bill is very necessary, and am very happy to give it my support. It is of great importance that there should be one officer to receive all the funds that are coming to us. I do not know whether it is intended that the Receiver General should be a member of the Executive Council or not.

Hon. Mr. FISHER.—No.

Mr. HIBBARD.—I am glad that, for the office would then be political, and he should be a member of this House, and I think it is best that he should stand outside. I think, however, that the office might be combined with that of the Provincial Secretary, for that officer will now have far less duties to perform than heretofore, and if this could be done it would save a good deal of the £400 required for a separate officer. In the State of Maine I think the whole thing is done at a less sum than two thousand dollars; and we have many very efficient men who would be glad to do it for £400, if it is

found impractical to merge it in the Provincial Secretary's office. I think the Government are now working right, and that the Bill is good, and if we can get the work as faithfully performed for £400, it would be a saving of £200 towards some other object. I do not think the Government are careless of the position in which they leave us, and I fully believe that if we husband our resources under the New Dominion, that there is not a Province of the British Empire that will have more money for local purposes than New Brunswick. But if we go to work and create a lot of offices at large salaries, we shall embarrass ourselves completely for it must be borne in mind that we have nothing to fall back upon, but what we get from Canada and our public domain, and I am sure that, with proper management, our Crown Lands would pay into the general revenues at least three times what they do now, and then be not oppressive to the people of this country. It is evident to my mind that it will be impossible for us to get along without this office, but at the same time let it be as inexpensive, as possible, consistent with efficiency. I hope the Deputy Treasurer, at the various ports will be willing to collect our Export Duties at a very small commission, for if we have to appoint other officers all over the Province to attend to that duty, we shall find that it will use up all the receipts from that source. I hope also that the Government will put the salary of this new office down to £400, for there are many good and reliable men who will be willing to faithfully perform the duties of that office for that sum. A clerk can plainly be found for £200, and only one will be required. Under these circumstances I hope the Government will consider the matter and do the very best they can.

Mr. SMITH.—That this officer is required, Mr. Chairman, there can be no kind of doubt; but I hope it will satisfy the people of the fact that the idea which has continually been put forth that the number of public officers would be reduced, is all a delusion, but that it will rather be increased. If all the Bills about to be introduced, according to the intimations of the Attorney General, are carried, we shall have a great many new officers. We are told that we shall have District Court Judges, Chancellors; and all that, so that, even though many of the offices at present existing may be abolished, we shall have just as many as before. The Postmaster General is to be displaced, but this new office is to be established, so that as fast as they are reduced in one direction they spring up in another. I perfectly agree with the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Hibbard) that it will be a pity if it cannot be united

with some other office, and if it is non-political I think it might very well be added to the Provincial Secretary's duties, for the work will be comparatively light. All he will have to do will be to receive the sixty thousand dollars or so from our Export Duty, the amounts accruing from our Casual and Territorial Revenue, which will not be large, and the sum we are to receive from Canada under the Act, which I think will be very small indeed. For all the debts contracted and the three millions of pounds sterling, is a first charge, taking precedence of all others, and must be liquidated before we can get what is promised under the Act; and if there is nothing left we can of course get nothing, for the amounts to come to us are only secondary charges upon the General Government. I agree with my hon. friend from Charlotte too in the opinion that £400 is amply abundant to pay the Receiver General. The idea at first was to make the office political, and the head of a department, but I find that a great organic change has been effected since it was introduced. I don't know that it is quite right to take the Bill off the files of the House and alter it to suit the changes in the feelings of the Government. That Bill, Mr. Chairman, has never been introduced to the Speaker, in reality, but I am not going to oppose it on that account. I do not believe the Receiver General will require a clerk at all. I know that when I am attending to my own business I work a great deal harder than I ever did in a Government. Here the Provincial Secretary has been away from his office for many months, but it was found that Mr. Feltz could run the machine just as well when he was away as when at home, and although it is generally thought the Secretary is a dreadfully hard-worked man, yet I believe he has frequently to run down to Saint John just to make people think he has plenty to do. It is the same with the other departments; the chief trouble is for the heads to find something to do. In this case I think £400 quite enough, especially as it is not political, for we only pay £200 to the heads of departments, who have to go back to their constituents for election, and it costs that sum to do it—if not in money, at least in trouble and anxiety—and so £400 is infinitely better than £600 as the head of a department. I do not see the necessity of a clerk at all, for the amount we do receive from Canada will come in bulk, and the other duties will be very light. I have often heard it said that the Government have too much influence on the floors of the House, and as this Bill is opposed to that principle, and the office will be required, I shall give it my support, but I hope the Government will not