

COST OF RIDEAU HALL.

Nearly Three Millions Since Confederation.

A Statement Showing How the Money Went.

Dufferin Made It Fly—A Chapel for the Present Governor.

OTTAWA, Ont., Nov. 10.—That the Governor-General, their staffs, travelling and official residence, have cost the Dominion over three million dollars since Confederation twenty-five years ago—an average of close on \$120,000 a year, exclusive of interest—is not generally realized, but it is a generalization of which a Star correspondent has come across the details while looking into some matters in connection with certain re-arrangements which the Earl of Aberdeen is having made at Rideau Hall the official residence of the governor.

When it was alleged a little time ago that Lord Aberdeen upon a brief inspection of Rideau Hall had decided it to be inadequate to accommodate his large retinue of servants and that he would like the dominion government to make some addition to the hall, there was a howl in the press. It is a sore spot with the taxpayer, this old vice-regal abode. It is a perfect sink-hole for public money. Possibly this is the result of the system of management or mismanagement; possibly the result of the fact that the building was never originally intended to enshrine the purple. Whatever the cause, the cost there, and the mere mention of new expenditure makes the taxpayer wince. As a matter of fact the new governor general did not make any requisition upon the government for additional accommodation for his forty-seven officers, secretaries, aides and servants, and it is possible that the report arose from the fact that he did possess this unusually large household for even a governor general, and that there is an addition being made to Rideau Hall.

But the addition is not for servants quarters. It is quite a characteristic addition, an Aberdeen edition, one might say. It is a chapel. And Lord Aberdeen brings his own chaplain from the land of Burns. It is understood that family worship is an unvarying nature of the Aberdeen domestic life, and it will be readily understood that with so large a domestic establishment, some adequate provision for holding the regular daily worship is almost a necessity.

But the government will not need to foot the bill for the chapel. Lord Aberdeen does so out of his private purse. It is quite an unpretentious temporary structure, dovetailed among the offices in rear of the hall. No official communications have yet taken place regarding it; but in looking into the matter I came across the rather interesting figures referred to above as to the cost to Canada of its gubernatorial pomp.

During the last session of parliament a liberal member, Mr. Mulock, moved for a return to show the total cost since confederation of the whole vice-regal business. The return was brought down in manuscript, but not printed, and while the figures furnished a basis for some remarks by Mr. Mulock, they were never published accurately. That return is now before me.

The figures may be divided under two chief headings, the Governor General and Rideau Hall.

The governor general's salary since confederation has been ten thousand pounds sterling per year, or translated accurately into decimal currency, \$48,666.66. The other items in his case are: 1. Travelling expenses; 2. Salaries of governor general's secretary's office; 3. Contingencies of governor general's secretary's office. The totals of each item from 1868 (confederation) to 1892 inclusive are:

Governor General's salary.....\$1,216,663
Governor's travelling expenses..... 145,903
Governor's secretary's office, salaries 270,350
Governor's secy.'s office, contingencies, 217,426

\$1,850,346.

The travelling expenses were not charged till 1874. The first Governor General, Lord Monck, and Sir John Young (Lord Lisgar) paid their own way. Lord Dufferin, the prince of spendthrifts, changed that, and since 1874 the vice-regal travelling has cost Canada an average of seven or eight thousand a year. The big year was 1877, when Lord Dufferin had a farewell blaze of glory that cost \$22,554 in travelling expenses. His term expired the following year.

The governor general's secretary's office is dominated by His Excellency's military secretary, generally an officer of the Guards, and His Excellency's right hand man in all matters both social and public. The military secretary has leave of absence and his pay from the imperial authorities, and gets \$2,400 from the dominion government. The business of the office is to transact correspondence and other general routine business affecting the governor general, and the staff consists of a chief clerk, three other clerks, a messenger and an orderly. The outfit is almost purely ornamental.

As to the contingencies, which used to average over ten thousand a year, but have latterly come to seven or eight thousand. They are usually made up of cablegrams, telegrams, postage, stationery and printing. Newspapers cost from five hundred to a thousand dollars. Subscriptions to Canadian papers last year footed up \$300, to British papers \$249 and \$33 was paid for United States papers.

One million one thousand five hundred odd dollars is the sum, exclusive of interest which the eighty thousand dollar structure, yeap Rideau Hall, has cost Canada since 1869.

Undoubtedly the domain was bought cheap. It was not a bad sort of house, and along with it went a noble natural park of a couple of hundred acres. The hall was built by a lumber king named McKay, and sold by his estate to the dominion government in 1869 for \$82,000. It stands on an eminence a mile or two east of Ottawa, with a fine view of the city to the west across the Rideau river, while

on the other side is a noble pine wood, sweeping down to the Ottawa river, the Grand River, as the old residents affectionately call. The Hall at first was merely a large and handsome house. Now it is a pile of half a dozen houses, looking homely and plain on the outside, but not without a certain picturesque quality. Governor after governor has made addition. Dufferin stuck on a big dining hall to the west, Princess Louise added a racket court on the east, other regimes increased the offices and stables, and now comes Aberdeen's chapel. But there are large conservatories; there is a natural hollow on the east which makes a fine little pond for curling and skating in winter, or a lawn for tennis in summer; a fine cricket field lies at the foot of the slope on the western side; the pines seclude the hall in most directions, there are capital stables—and in short it is difficult to imagine the vice-regal household better off for healthy recreation combined with welcome privacy. The governor general of Canada might be a great deal worse off than they are in Rideau Hall.

The expenses in connection with the Hall come under four headings, after the first crest. 1. Additions, alteration, repairs and maintenance; 2. Furniture. 3. Care of gardens and grounds, and 4. Fuel and light. In every case the Dufferin regime shows the biggest figures. The totals are as follows:

Rent of domain, 1868-69.....\$ 7,854
Purchase, 1869..... 82,000
Additions, repairs, etc.....547,144
Furniture.....118,853
Care gardens and grounds..... 94,349
Fuel and light.....151,371

\$1,001,571

How an average yearly expenditure of over twenty-two thousand dollars for the repairs and maintenance of an eighty-thousand dollar house can be rolled up, even with occasional new additions to the structure is one of the things that the average Canadian taxpayer cannot understand. Lord Dufferin first opened the eyes of all wide when in 1873, his first year, he got fifty-five thousand dollars spent in additions and repairs. Up to that year, too, the Governor-General had paid for their own fuel and lights. Dufferin got \$5000 for this tacked on to the public burden. The next year 1874, he got \$35,000 more spent in alterations and repairs; and \$12,000 on furniture. He averaged \$30,000 a year for the next four years for these same purposes and ran up the fuel and light bill to over \$10,000 a year. When the Marquis of Lorne succeeded Dufferin, his royal bride kept things lively still. But neither under Princess Louise nor any one else before or after did Rideau Hall cost two-thirds what it did under Dufferin.

The care of the gardens and grounds is contracted for with local gardeners. The usual cost is \$4,000 or thereabouts. Latterly there has been a fixed allowance for fuel and light of \$8,000 a year.

Combined, the cost of the Governor-General and of Rideau Hall since Confederation is not far from three millions. Perhaps Canada after all gets off mighty cheap when she pays a hundred thousand or so per year for her Governor General and gets British soldiers and sailors, ambassadors and consuls free when needed. The worst of the system prevailing with regard to the Governor-General's office is that it extends to the lieutenant governorships of the provinces and these officials have free residences, travelling allowances and other perquisites, where in the case of much larger and wealthier States of the American union the governors have smaller salaries and pay their own way in every respect.

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Mr. C. Harper, Ottawa, Ont., writes: I have pleasure in stating that my Pink Pills are a wonderful tonic and reconstructor of the system. Since beginning their use, I have gained on an average, a pound of flesh a week. All dealers or, post paid, 30c. a box or six boxes for \$2.50. Beware of imitations and substitutes. Dr. Williams' Med. Co., Brookville, Ont.

The Grading of Honey.

Beekeepers evidently vary in their ideas of how many grades of honey are required. Judging from expressions made in the American Bee Journal on the subject, 7 out of 24 were in favor of three grades. Several wanted but two grades and one wanted four grades. G. W. Demaree expressed himself as follows: "I have but two grades—light colored and dark colored. This means honey gathered in the clover season, which gives us white honey; and honey gathered in the fall from the asters, etc., which gives us dark honey. I protest against any further classification. It is a wonder to me that those restless individuals who clamour for classification of honey have failed to see that too much grading has put the producers of agricultural products at the tender mercies of the sharpers."

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A WESTERN ELDORADO.

Great Future of Edmonton District Described.

A Rich Farming Country to Which Thousands are flocking—Movement From Eastern Provinces.

J. H. Haslam, Special C. P. R. Colonization Agent in the Maritime Provinces was in Montreal last week. He lately accompanied a party of delegates from the Maritime Provinces through the North West. To a Star reporter Mr. Haslam said that the delegates were delighted with what they saw of Manitoba and the Territories; particularly of the Edmonton district. It is hard to imagine a country better adapted to agriculture than the district known as the Valley of the Saskatchewan. So favorably impressed were the members of Mr. Haslam's party with the Edmonton district that one of them offered \$10,000 cash for a farm some ten miles north of Edmonton, and several others made arrangements to procure land and move out there in the spring. On the farm above mentioned there were some 300 acres under crop, mostly in oats and barley. The oats were threshing as high as 100 bushels to the acre and the barley yielded an average of 50 bushels per acre. Every condition necessary to successful farming seems to exist in that region. The soil is practically inexhaustible, the grasses are abundant and so nutritious that the cattle were in better condition than eastern cattle are after being stall fed for six months. Coal is abundant and can be had at the mine's mouth for \$2 per ton. A few miles north of Edmonton there are oil fields which it is said, are among the richest in the world.

Gold is being washed in the crudest way from the banks of the Saskatchewan river, indicating that it abounds there and when scientific methods of prospecting and developing it are adopted gold will be produced in abundance. The climate is anything that can be desired and taking the Edmonton district all around it is one of the most promising fields ever opened up for settlement on the American Continent.

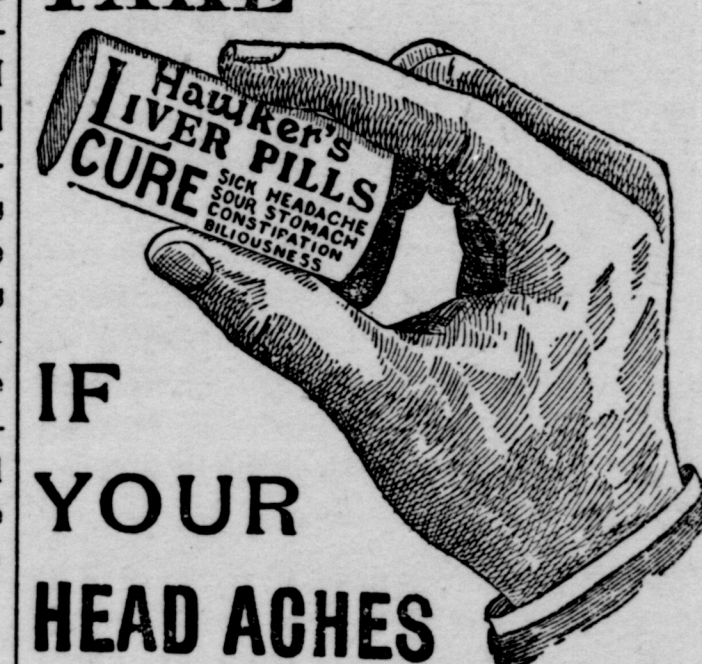
The party, in a question via the new Soo line and Chicago passing through six of the best agricultural states in the American North West, and neither on the farms, as they passed through, or in the stock yards in Chicago did they see cattle comparable with those grazing on the ranches and farms in the Canadian North West. In fact Mr. Haslam says he did not see any cattle in the United States fit for shipment alive to the British market under the present condition, of immediate slaughtering on their arrival there. Some fifteen train loads of the finest cattle they ever saw were passed on their trip going from the North West to the British market. Speak about the prospects of the people of the Maritime Provinces going to the North West, in place of as formerly to the United States, Mr. Haslam said that everything seems to point to a change in this respect. The young men down by the sea have been going for years in alarmingly large numbers to the United States, chiefly to the towns and cities of New England where they got ready and profitable employment; but there is now no room for them there, as, owing to the great depression prevailing all through the States a great many of them have had to return. When once the advantages of the North West are thoroughly understood, the tide of emigration will as surely turn thitherward as that the waters will rise to-morrow in the Bay of Fundy or that the wave will wash the muddy banks of the Petitcodiac.

Mr. Haslam, who is a practical farmer himself, is full of enthusiasm as to the future of the North West, which, notwithstanding the prevailing low price of farm products, is bound to prosper and become populous and he says that he intends to settle there himself ere long with a large number of his Maritime Province friends.

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