

CANADA TAXPAYERS AROUSED

THINK THEIR GOVERNORS GENERAL ARE TOO EXPENSIVE.

They Have Cost Since Confederation, Twenty-five Years Ago, Nearly Three Millions—Receive Big Salaries, and Yet the Government Pays Their Traveling Expenses and Fuel and Light Bills—Constant Repairs to Rideau Hall.

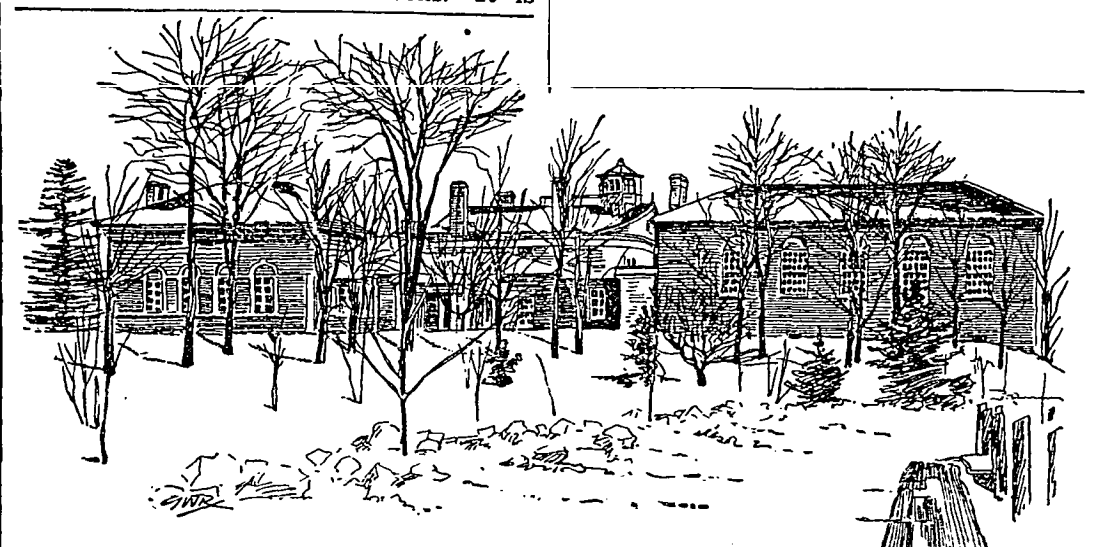
OTTAWA, Ontario, Dec. 2.—That the Governors General, their staff, traveling expenses, and official residence have cost the Dominion about \$3,000,000 since confederation twenty-five years ago—an average of close on \$120,000 a year, exclusive of interest—is not generally realized. When it was alleged a little while 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 an 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 is there, and the mere mention of new expenditure makes the taxpayer wince. As a matter of fact, it cannot be ascertained that the new Governor General made 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 does 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 addition, one might say. It is a chapel. Lord Aberdeen brings his own chaplain from the land of Burns. It is

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 \$55,000 spent in additions and repairs. Up to that year, too, the Governors General had paid for their own fuel and lights. Dufferin got \$5,000 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 a year, 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 of Rideau Hall since confederation, not far from \$3,000,000, has been quite a serious matter, and it is largely unnecessary, inasmuch as the Governor is purely a figurehead. Doubtless some sort of figurehead there must be, however, and perhaps Canada, after all, gets off very cheaply when she pays a hundred thousand or so a 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 practically useless officials have free residences, traveling allowances, and other perquisites, where, in the cases of much larger and wealthier States of the American Union, the hard-worked Governors have smaller salaries and pay their own way.



Rideau Hall.

understood that family worship is an unvarying feature of the Aberdeen domestic life, and it will be readily understood that, with so large an establishment, some adequate provision for holding the regular daily worship is almost a necessity. The Government will not need to foot the bill for the chapel. Lord Aberdeen authorizes the statement that he will do so out of his private purse. It is quite an unpretentious temporary structure, dovetailed among the offices in the rear of the hall. No official communications have yet taken place regarding it, but, in looking into the matter, the rather interesting figures referred to as to the cost to Canada of its Gubernatorial pomp were brought to light.

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

The Governor General's salary since confederation has been £10,000 a year, or, translated accurately into decimal currency, \$48,666.66. The other items in his case are: 1. Traveling 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.....	\$1,216,666
Governor's traveling expenses.....	145,903
Governor's secretary's office, salaries...	270,350
Governor's secretary's office, contingencies.....	217,426
Total	\$1,850,345

The traveling expenses were not charged till 1874. The first Governors 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 traveling has cost Canada an average of \$7,000 or \$8,000 a year. The big year was 1877, when Lord Dufferin had a farewell blaze of glory that cost \$22,554 in traveling 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 transmit 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 \$10,000 a year, but latterly have come to \$7,000 or \$8,000, they are usually half made up of cablegrams, telegrams, postage, stationery, and printing. Newspapers cost from \$500 to \$1,000. Curiously enough, while subscriptions to Canadian papers last year footed up \$300, and to British papers \$249, only \$33 was paid for United States papers. Their Excellencies should arrange to be better posted about Uncle Sam.

One million one thousand five hundred and odd dollars is the sum, exclusive of interest, which the eighty-thousand-dollar structure yept 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 beautiful 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 it. The hall at first was merely a large and handsome house. Now it is a pile of half a dozen houses, homely and plain on the outside, but not without a certain picturesqueness. Governor after Governor has made additions. Dufferin added a racket court on the east, other regimens increased the offices and stables, and now comes Aberdeen's chapel. There are large conservatories; there is a natural hollow on the east which makes a fine little pond for curling and skating in winter; 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 privacy. Inside, the hall is an irregular but very comfortable and homelike abode, with large, low rooms studded with grates for coal fires, and mostly with pleasant and generally picturesque outlooks. The Governors 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 cost: 1. Additions, alterations, repairs, and maintenance. 2. Furniture. 3. Care of gardens and grounds. 4. Fuel and light. In every case the Dufferin regime shows the biggest figures. The totals are as follows:

Rent of domain, 1868-9.....	\$7,854
Purchase, 1869.....	82,000
Additions, repairs, &c., since 1869.....	547,144
Furniture, 1868-92.....	118,853
Care gardens and grounds.....	94,349
Fuel and light.....	151,371
Total.....	\$1,001,571

How an average yearly expenditure of over \$22,000 for the repairs and maintenance of an eighty-thousand-dollar house can be