

privileges to be interfered with by officials whose stipends come from the earnings of the masses of the people. I recollect well the first canvass I made in the forest county which I have the honour to represent, very often we had no town hall in which to assemble, no roof to shelter our heads, but in the heart of the primeval forest, with the tall pines waving over our heads, we held our sylvan gatherings. The impression made on my mind well never be erased, as I saw the hardy settlers, the pioneers of civilization, come trooping to the place of rendezvous. They were exiles from many a land, all the divers elements—English, Irish, Scotch, French—which make up our people, and every man had his tale of wrong, oppression and outrage to relate. At last the meeting would be organised and the chairman would announce to me its decision. He would say, and the statement of one was that of all: We care not for abstract questions of politics; with regard to the great questions of the day, do as you will; with us the great struggle is for existence. All we ask of you is to guide and assist us, and to stand between us and our oppressors. Well, I have done so to the best of my ability. In season, and out of season, I have been at their service. If they came to my door at midnight, I was ready to do their bidding. And my reward has been the faithful and loyal support of as many and independent body of constituents as the sun ever shone upon. But it is not a pleasant life to lead to make, day after day, the everlasting round of the Departments without any result—to climb those awful stairs which Dante describes as the punishment of politicians, to wait patiently in the ante-chambers of the great, to witness the perpetual exaltation of the creature above the Creator, and to bear the insolence of office, such is the everlasting round to which politicians are, doubtless, for their sins condemned. It is not a pleasant task, and no gentleman could perform it, were it not for the pleading eyes and wan cheeks which force us to it. I did not wish to take any part in the discussion of this matter, but was forced to do so by my constituents, and sense of public duty. I have the greatest respect for the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and for many of the able officers who compose its staff. I have

also a feeling of great respect for its author and creator, the Hon. Peter Mitchell, who may be said to have evolved it from his inner consciousness. And if we have reaped the rich harvest of the sea—if we have swept five millions of American dollars into the Treasury of the Dominion. The meshes of the nets were woven and the lines and buoys, by which that operation was performed laid down, by the patient perseverance, practical ability, and statesmanlike sagacity of the Hon. Peter Mitchell. But my regret is, that the services which he rendered to the Dominion have not received a better reward. But in the political field the fruition never equals the expectation. The labourer who sows rarely reaps the harvest, and we are told the race is not to the swift, the battle to the strong, or riches to men of understanding. I say this without wishing to derogate in the slightest degree, from the services rendered by the late Minister of Marine, in carrying out the most difficult and delicate negotiations which resulted so satisfactorily in the Halifax Award. We have been frequently told that the Dominion of Canada ranks fifth among the maritime powers of the world, and certainly of the Department of Marine functions are of a most important character. The duty is to look after all our marine affairs, to do for the toilers of the sea what the hon. the Minister of Agriculture is supposed to do for those on the land, guard, aid, and assist them; to stud our ironbound coasts and inland waters with lighthouses and beacon-lights; to make the shrill music of the fog-whistle warn the mariner of his danger; to ponder to the passions of the piscatorial tribes; to increase the food supply of the nation; these are a few of the duties which devolve on this Department. Among the ideas which preside over the development of the human intellect, that of industry occupies a most important position, but there are also the ideas of the good, the true, the beautiful and the just. If I am permitted, I think I can show that, in addition to obtaining for us material advantages, the Department has conferred on us a genuine intellectual pleasure. We all recollect the debates which took place between the two knightly Chancellors of the Exchequer on the question of finance. We

MR. WRIGHT.