

ney-General's office was made a political one, although he was not a member of the Cabinet. That question had, therefore, been discussed in the great Australian colonies very exhaustively, and it had, also, been discussed on various occasions in England. The ground was taken by some public men, both in Australia and England, that it was not desirable the Attorney-General should be a member of the Government as a responsible Minister, but that idea had evidently not prevailed in any of the colonies, although it had been tried occasionally, as he had shown, but had been ultimately abandoned, and those offices were now in precisely the same position as the offices would be in the present Administration if the Bill carried. As to there not being sufficient work for the two offices, he was quite satisfied that no person acquainted with the duties of the office, as they now required to be performed, could possibly come to that conclusion. It was all very well to deliver a somewhat strong speech against the Bill, but it was a different matter to give facts and statements upon which to base a sound argument against it. There could be no doubt in the mind of any one that the substitution of this office for that of Receiver-General was one that would greatly aid any Administration, in the discharge of its Parliamentary functions particularly. Every Administration must have felt the great want there was under our system of officers charged particularly with the preparation and carrying of Government Bills, particularly those of a legal character. In England that work was all done outside of the Cabinet, by experts employed for that specific purpose. Here, there was no doubt, a Law Clerk, whose special duty was, not to draft Bills for the Government, but to revise and compare Bills which were drafted, with existing Statutes, although sometimes, no doubt, assisting the Department of Justice. But there had been a sore want felt constantly of that legal assistance which was absolutely necessary when Ministers had to sit in Parliament, to attend Committees in the forenoons and attend to the other administrative functions devolving on them by reason of

their office. That was an enormous labour, and he could conceive of nothing that would tend to afford relief more than the appointment of an Attorney-General, who would be charged with many of those duties which members of the Cabinet generally had now to perform. He was sure such an office would have been a great relief to the right hon. member for Kingston during the time he was Premier. It was of still greater importance, when a layman, like himself (Mr. Mackenzie) occupied that position, to have abundant assistance in the direction of legislative preparation, and the conducting of legal business through Parliament, for it was almost impossible as matters now stood, with the legislative functions to perform and the legislative duties to attend to, that any one man could devote that amount of care and attention absolutely necessary in order to carry successfully the measures of an Administration through Parliament, and at the same time perform all the other duties of the office.

MR. TUPPER said there was one reason why, he thought, the present Administration should feel inclined to obtain the assistance of more lawyers. The members of the legal profession had the advantage over laymen, that they were accustomed, and compelled from the very character of their profession, to be prepared to enter the Courts one day with a case, and make an able and eloquent argument in its favour, and on the following day to go into the same Courts with a case antagonistic to that they had so ably argued on the previous day, and make an equally strong case in its favour. If ever a Government stood in the position of requiring advocates who were able to maintain one case one day, and on the following day to show strong reasons for pursuing the very opposite line, it was the Administration which had submitted this Bill to Parliament. Take the very question under consideration. No one could forget that while hon. gentlemen opposite occupied seats on the Opposition side of the House for six years, the then Government were continually subjected to the charge of inflicting upon the country an alto-

MR. MACKENZIE.