

up the subject each for himself than if the recommendation came merely on the responsibility of an individual Minister. Referring to an expression of dissent by the member for Chateauguay, he said he had no doubt that that honourable member would some day—how soon he (Sir John) did not know and did not wish to anticipate the time—would some day again hold the office of Finance Minister, and he ventured to say he would then bless his stars that his predecessors in office had introduced such a complete subdivision of labour in that department.

Hon. Mr. Holton said if he had expressed a doubt, it was not to the value of subdivision of labour, but as to the efficiency of the Treasury Board.

Sir John A. Macdonald proceeded to say that he supposed he would not be required to show the necessity of the office of Post Master General, or Minister of Public Works, or Secretary of State. The Bill as to the last of these departments had already received the sanction of the House.

Hon. Mr. Holton said by the Bill now before the House it was proposed to strip the Minister of Public Works of a number of his duties, as he had already been deprived of the charge of the Intercolonial Railway.

Sir John A. Macdonald said all the public works of Canada with regard to their construction, maintenance and repair, with the public buildings and canals, and railways belonging to the Dominion, were still under the control of the Minister of Public Works. Some expressions in this Bill entrusting the Minister of Fisheries with repair, maintenance, etc., of light houses, etc., were a mistake, and would be altered. He then referred to the Department of Secretary of State for the Provinces, and argued, as on former occasions, for its necessity on account of the number and importance of the communications that must necessarily pass between the Local and Dominion Governments. The Secretary of State having, in addition to his former duties, charge of the Indian Department and ordnance lands, could not well undertake the charge of that correspondence.

Hon. Mr. Holton—The Secretary of State found time to be away at Quebec six weeks legislating.

Sir John A. Macdonald said he had earned that spare time well, by the assiduity with which he had applied himself to his duties

[Sir J. A. Macdonald (Kingston).]

here. He proceeded to state that Mr. Archibald, as a representative of Nova Scotia in the Cabinet had been appointed Secretary of State for the Provinces. Every one would admit that gentleman's standing and capacity for the difficult duties entrusted to him. He failed, however, to secure a seat in this House, and at once tendered his resignation, which was accepted, but he was at the same time requested to retain his portfolio till a successor should be appointed. Considering the position which Nova Scotia as a whole had assumed, he (Sir John) could not well ask the assistance of his honourable friends opposite from that Province to fill Mr. Archibald's place. At the same time, the other representative from Nova Scotia, Mr. Kenny, although a gentleman of high position in his own Province, having presided over the upper branch of its Legislature, had never before been a member of the Executive, and it was necessary that he should be able to consult with some other representative of his Province, such as Mr. Archibald. That gentleman had therefore kindly but reluctantly consented to remain. He had found his position irksome, however, and had again asked to be relieved, and the duties were now performed by the Secretary of State. He (Sir John) thought, however, that the office was one that was absolutely necessary, and that it would continue to grow in importance. It was also a duty of the Government to legislate on the subject of immigration and the interests of agriculture. There should be inter-communication then between the Dominion and the Provinces on these two subjects, and he hoped and believed that the general and local governments would be in accord always on the necessity of improving and advancing the interests of agriculture and immigration. These duties having been thrown on the General Government had to be confided to some minister, and a minister was accordingly appointed with similar duties to those entrusted to the same office in the old Province of Canada, and as in that instance the duties of the minister were not confined to these two subjects, so here it would be proposed in a measure yet to be submitted to the House that other subjects of great importance should be confided to that department; such as the patent laws, those relating to copyrights, statistics, and others of such a miscellaneous nature that they could not be well classified. There was another office which had existed in all the Provinces—the President of the Council—since the lamented death of Mr.