

ports. My own impression is that the Minister of Agriculture is so extremely fond of work that he has practically overloaded his own department by adding various branches to it. Why should the Census Department be added to the Department of Agriculture? It should be taken away and given to another department. We have the Department of the Secretary of State with practically nothing to do, practically a non-existent department, while the Department of Agriculture is overloaded with a great deal more work than any ordinary minister can properly attend to. I think there should be a fairer division of the work of the various departments. The Minister of Agriculture especially should devote his time exclusively to matters pertaining to agriculture, and leave the Minister of Trade and Commerce to deal with matters of commerce, so that we can have a more thorough administration of the agricultural affairs of this country. I think the minister is making a mistake in reaching out at every opportunity to get some further power, to aggrandize himself and make himself exceedingly prominent in the face of the country. If we go on in this way, in the course of a year or two we shall be able to dispense with nearly all the other departments and simply have the Minister of Agriculture, with power to add to his powers by Order in Council, and taking away matters belonging to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who, I am sorry to say is not now privileged to have a seat in this House. I think the work of the departments should be more fairly divided, and more especially that the Minister of Agriculture should be left free to deal with matters belonging strictly to what we understand by a Department of Agriculture, and not have every other department robbed for the sake of aggrandizing that minister.

Mr. FISHER. My hon. friend, in his care for me and my interests, has I think, made a little mistake; because he will notice that this Bill came from the Senate, where it was proposed by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. So that, instead of my grasping for things, it was the Minister of Trade and Commerce who desired to put this into my charge—not with any desire of relieving himself, but simply as a practical matter of administration, because I had officers who had to look after the fruit, and who could quite easily, with out adding to the expense of the government of the country, look after the packages as well. That is the only reason for it. I can assure my hon. friend that I am not desirous of adding to my prestige or responsibility. I have quite enough without anything more, and I would be glad to divest myself of part of the work of my department if I could induce some of my

colleagues to take it. Perhaps that good day will come, when I shall be relieved and my hon. friend's mind will be set at rest.

Mr. LENNOX. The text of my hon. friend from Halton may be wrong, but the sermon is all right. In this particular instance, the Minister of Agriculture may be right; but I have had occasion to speak of this matter before, and if a remedy is not brought about, I shall have occasion to speak of it again.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. LENNOX. And the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House who are uneasy, if they consult the agricultural interests of this country, will have occasion to think of it as well. A year or so ago we were discussing our exhibits in Great Britain, when the question of the Imperial Institute came up. The Minister of Agriculture was good enough to give us a description of the Imperial Institute, or that branch to which our exhibit, was assigned, and he said that it was an 'omnibus department, into which was put everything that there was no other place for, similar to the Department of Agriculture in this country'—in other words, a general dumping ground where everything that was not wanted anywhere else was put. We have not only the speech of the hon. member for Halton to-day, but evidence all along the line to show that there are too many matters undertaken by the Minister of Agriculture, at the expense, I venture to say, of the best interests of Canada. The minister on the occasion I refer to spoke of the fact that he had charge of the census and some other things that might very well go to some other department not so loaded with work as his. The minister to some extent misapprehends, I think, the meaning of the hon. member for Halton when he speaks of his solicitude for the Minister of Agriculture. I think it is not so much that as it is solicitude for the best interests of the farmers of Canada. I have ventured on previous occasions, and I will again venture, to call the attention of this House to the fact that the interests of agriculture in this country, are large enough, great enough, important enough, to have a minister whose attention shall be undistracted, and solely and exclusively devoted to agriculture. The interests of the farming community require it, the magnitude of our farming operations justifies it, and from time to time I shall take occasion to press upon the minister, my good friend the minister—and, as I have said before, there is a very strong bond of union between us, because of the similarity of our pursuits—the importance of applying all his