

two longer, where they were called upon to refer, consider and correct the legislation of a large country such as this had been since its consolidation by the Union, a country with various laws, customs and modes of shipping—he referred particularly to the difference which existed between the law of Quebec and that of the other Provinces—it was of the highest consequence that the Government, that the Parliament, that the country should be provided with more than one high legal officer in order that those responsibilities connected with the framing of legislation, such as that to which he had adverted, ought to be efficiently discharged. It was surely impossible for any one man, no matter how great his ability, to accomplish, during a Session, the whole of the business assigned to him. No man who held a high political position, no matter how great his talent, could succeed in accomplishing all that business. This was shown very forcibly by the remarks made the other evening by the hon. member for Kingston, when he pointed out that the great increase of work which had taken place necessitated the prolongation of the Parliamentary Session. Perhaps he (Mr. Blake) might be permitted to observe that he was not, in making this quotation from the hon. gentleman's remarks, prompted by the same purpose which actuated the hon. member for Cumberland when he committed the irregularity of referring to some statements made by him (Mr. Blake) in the course of a former debate. The proposal of the Government was not to increase the public burthens; they wished to secure the proper supervision of the legislation of the country. Their policy was to abolish an office which was admittedly a sinecure, and sub-divide one which was acknowledged to be a very onerous one, the duties connected with which had certainly become too heavy. It was said this was a proposal to increase the number of lawyers in the Cabinet. Such was not the case. He quite agreed with what had been said as to the prominent position taken by members of the Bar in the Governments of all foreign countries. He believed it would be found that an undue propor-

tion of lawyers held prominent places in the councils of their country, and it was the case even under the Administration of the right hon. member for Kingston, a majority of whose Cabinet consisted of legal men. He believed that, at one time, ten or eleven, out of thirteen, were either lawyers or notaries, and that the present Cabinet contained fewer lawyers than the Cabinet of the right hon. member for Kingston ordinarily contained. To say, therefore, that the existence of two legal offices in the Cabinet would give members of the profession an undue advantage over laymen, was preposterous. The hon. member for Cumberland had referred to a speech which he (Mr. Blake) had delivered out of Session, also to a few observations which he had made in reply to the hon. member for Frontenac. On the latter occasion, he (Mr. Blake) had thought it his duty to state his opinion as to the proper view to be taken of the subject which the hon. gentleman had brought before the House—a subject which was not then in controversy. The hon. gentleman said he had conformed his practice to what was the loudly expressed opinion of the country. The hon. gentleman, however, evidently confounded the articles of the Tory press, with the loudly expressed opinion of this country, and he (Mr. Blake) could assure him that he had no regard for them whatever. He explained the circumstances under which he had confined his attention exclusively to the duties of his office and the circumstances under which, for a short time, he did not so confine it. He would, however, repeat the explanation. For a short time after he accepted office he assisted in the winding up of some business in which he was connected, but finding very soon that the duties of his office demanded all his time and attention, and believing that his first consideration should be to discharge the functions which he had undertaken, he devoted himself exclusively to them. It was not by any means because the newspapers which the hon. gentleman controlled, and which, he believed, represented the public opinion of this country, that he changed his course, because he paid no