

ized labour and the capitalists and other employers of labour. Those are the reasons which move the government to advise the creation of this department. I move the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—This is another illustration, and my right hon. friend has anticipated the observation I was about to make, of the government practicing economy under a falling revenue, by adding to the expenditure of civil government. What I object to in connection with this Bill is what I might term the patch-work policy of the government in increasing the portfolios of civil government. This increase does not seem to be based upon any well-defined policy. It seems to be the outcome of whatever clamour or demand may be made at the moment concerning conditions which arise from time to time, and which may not be looked for. This is the second Bill which we have had to consider during the present session increasing the portfolios of civil government. There is no doubt whatever that the Bill concerning a Department for External Affairs will, with propitious political weather, blossom into a full-blown cabinet portfolio at a very early date, and, even though the revenue decreases, as surely as the sun shines at noon to-day, next session, or at a very early session, we shall have to consider the propriety of appointing another cabinet minister to provide for the portfolio of External Affairs. We have now a Bill before us involving an expenditure of no less than thirty-four or thirty-five thousand dollars for the maintenance of the Department of Labour. I find in the estimates which were introduced to the other House in connection with this Bill, we are to have a deputy head at \$5,000, one secretary in the first division, subdivision A of \$2,800; two second division subdivision A clerks, \$3,800, eight second subdivision clerks at \$1,100, one-third subdivision B clerk, and four third division subdivision B clerks at \$2,200, one messenger at \$650, one packer and sorter at \$500, and an allowance for private secretary of \$300, together with a full-blown cabinet minister at \$7,000; making in all \$34,000.

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT—The larger part of that, I think, is already

Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

incurred in the Bureau of Labour that now exists.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—That would be the minimum. This is simply presented to us so as to prepare us for what may possibly arise in the future. Those departments have contracted a habit during the last ten or twelve years of growing very rapidly; of flourishing like green bay trees; of increasing their expenditure anywhere from 100 to 500 per cent. The service in some of the departments of the government has increased to no less than 500 or 600 per cent during the last 12 or fifteen years. We do not seem to be making any headway in being able to control the expenditure of civil government. I do not entertain any spirit of hostile criticism to the government in saying that large financial corporations, large transportation companies and the other great commercial companies of Canada or of the continent, would not dream of transacting their business in the same way as we do in the Civil Service of the government of Canada. Abuses have always existed there, and they continue with abounding rapidity and multiplication. It would not seem unreasonable to suppose that this government made up at one time, as we understood it to be, of all the business talents, should have been equal to grappling with this very important question. I do not know how many royal commissions have been appointed from time to time to inquire into this matter, and so numerous have all the recommendations been that I scarcely recall them, as to how the Civil Service might be reconstructed, and how the expenditure might be reduced. Still we go on session after session piling up increased expenditure until it seems to me that at a comparatively early period, the uncontrollable expenditure of the government will practically absorb all the revenue. Another question arises: are we going to receive value for this? I very much regret that my right hon. friend has not been able to indicate to this Chamber some well defined scheme whereby the Department of Labour will be able to grapple with the various questions to which he has alluded. I quite appreciate the responsibility of the government in dealing with