

Hon. Mr. Rose said at the inauguration of the Dominion Government he had at first thought the number of Cabinet officers was unnecessarily great; but further reflection on the subject from the various points of view which had been presented to-night, had convinced him that a smaller number would not have sufficed. Having referred to the duties of the Militia Department and the Secretary of State for the Provinces, as requiring distinct departmental heads, he went on to urge the necessity which, in his opinion, justified a subdivision of the Finance Department. As regarded the Customs—while there were 71 ports in Ontario and Quebec the effect of Confederation was to add 110 ports in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The importance of the Excise Department had also increased. A few years ago, its revenue was half a million dollars, now it was nearly three millions. It was physically impossible for one man to discharge properly the duties devolving on the Finance Minister, and the Ministers of Customs and Inland Revenue.

Hon. Mr. Holton suggested that the debate on this Bill should be adjourned, so that there might be but one general debate on the whole subject instead of having a debate on each Bill.

Sir John A. Macdonald thought that it would be better that there should be an understanding that the general debate might go on upon each Bill as it came up. In that way the business of the House would be advanced, while all members who desired might have an opportunity at the same time of continuing the debate on the general policy of the Government in this matter.

Hon. Mr. Holton would prefer that the second reading of all these Bills should be moved together, and the general debate taken on that motion.

After further remarks, **Sir John A. Macdonald** consented to the adjournment of the debate.

The House adjourned at five minutes past 12 o'clock.
