

junction of the political leaders and political parties whose antecedents had been opposed to each other, and it was felt to be desirable that the two parties which had joined to bring about the Union should be represented in the Cabinet formed at its inauguration. The Cabinet thus came to comprise thirteen members. Sir John proceeded to discuss the question whether it would have been desirable to have some of the members of the Cabinet merely consultative members without portfolios. He contended that this would have been against the well established practice of both Canada and England, unless in such exceptional cases as those of the Marquis of Landsdowne and the Duke of Wellington, whose experience made it desirable to have them in the Cabinet, while the respect due to their age relieved them from being entrusted with active administrative affairs as heads of departments. Another recent example of this was not considered satisfactory by the British people, and every one was pleased when Mr. Walpole, on the formation of the Disraeli administration the other day, was relieved of the anomalous position of being a member of the Cabinet without portfolio. There was another reason why a correct principle of representation in the Cabinet should be laid down at the inauguration of the Dominion. There was every prospect that at no distant day its area would be increased, and it was desirable therefore that the Cabinet should be established on a large and sufficient basis, that would not require to be altered, extended, or changed, with every addition to our area, size, and importance. It had not been felt in the old Province of Canada that the Cabinet was at all too large, and of all the departments in that Cabinet there was only one not required for the due administration of the affairs of the Dominion. He alluded to the Crown Lands Department. There might also be a reduction in the law department. The Solicitors-General had scarcely in any sense portfolios, except in conjunction with the Attorneys-General, the professional chiefs. It was believed that the interests of the Dominion did not require more than one legal member in the Cabinet. Sir John proceeded to enumerate the actual departments in the Cabinet and to argue for the necessity of each. He had already spoken of the department of the fisheries, the organization of which was the object of the present Bill. As regarded the department of the Minister of Justice, he presumed it would be admitted that some legal officer must be a member of

the Cabinet and Attorney-General, holding the same power with reference to the Dominion and its affairs as the Attorney-General in England, having responsibilities for legal appointments, the general state of the law, its amelioration where necessary and its due administration. It was therefore provided that a Minister of Justice should be appointed, and that he should hold his commission as Attorney-General as well. He thought it would be admitted, if not before his honourable colleague introduced the Militia Bill the other day, at least after that Bill was introduced, that the Militia and the organization for defence, fortifications, etc., required a Minister of Militia. Of course, there must be a Minister of Finance. Then as regarded that department it must be obvious to every one that it had greatly outgrown the dimensions which could be managed by one man. It had become necessary to sub-divide it. The Minister of Finance must, of necessity, be employed with the general questions connected with the Revenue and Expenditure, and he thought his honourable friend who now ably filled that office would succeed in convincing the House, if he had not already done so, that all his time and more if he had it to spare, would be occupied in attending to this branch of the Public Administration. Sir John A. Macdonald went on to contend that in England there was virtually a Treasury Board presided over by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and including the Financial Secretaries of each of the other departments which had to do with the raising or expenditure of money, and argued that it was a great advantage to have a similar board here, comprising the Receiver General, Minister of Customs, Minister of Inland Revenue, and Minister of Finance at its head. He argued also that the subdivision of labour brought about by the creation of distinct Customs and Excise Departments formerly included in the Financial Department, was an important advantage. The Finance Minister, he said, would have the responsibility of initiating the policy of each of these departments, while to the Ministers of Customs and Inland Revenue would belong the responsibility of administration. The whole Treasury Board at the same time, would form a consultative body; and there would be this advantage, that when they recommended as a combined body any policy or course of action, the other members of the Cabinet, from the confidence they could place in such a board, would be less under the necessity of studying