

not to be able to agree with one portion of his present announcement. Last Session he announced that the Post Office Department had been transferred from the present incumbent to Sir Alexander Campbell, and I stated that I believed that change to be in the public interest. The hon. gentleman has re-transferred the former incumbent to the Post Office Department, and I am, of course, unable to say that I think the public interests have been served by that change, because it is the reverse of what I approved of last Session. With respect to the Minister of Justice, we are gradually being shorn of our prerogatives here. Last Session the First Minister announced that he had transferred one of the great revenue departments to the Upper House. The Department of Inland Revenue ceased to be an appanage of the Chamber of the people, and was transferred to the Senate. Up to this Session, at any rate, we have been accustomed to regard the Ministry of Justice as belonging to us. As Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, the gentleman filling that position has important duties to discharge of a quasi-judicial nature with reference to the legislation of this Chamber; and we know that judicial questions will be discussed which will require his presence here, and the people cannot be satisfied with any other result. I regret, therefore, that the disposition has still further been shown to transfer to the other Chamber, Departments which have hitherto been regarded as part of this Chamber. I regret it, moreover, because I do not think it can be said that we were altogether lacking here in gentlemen able to fill that office. The hon. gentleman opposite did, I believe, try his prentice hand at the discharge of those functions, during the absence of the Minister of Justice, and exercised those functions by disallowing the Streams Bill, in which I apprehend he sent himself up Salt River. But there are other gentlemen in this Chamber, who, I think, hold themselves competent to fill the position of Minister of Justice, and the regret that the office has been transferred to the Upper House, is intensified by the regret we feel that it is not filled by one of these gentlemen. With reference to the other change—that by which the President of the Council has been introduced into this Chamber—I am sure we must tender him our felicitations. He is, indeed, a fortunate man, a fortunate politician. I remember, about eleven years ago, when he left this Chamber in order to assume an office of responsibility and emolument, which it was deemed inconsistent with the weaker and frailer nature of the members of this House to fill, but which, when wrapt in senatorial robes, he might well hold without feeling that it interfered with his position or legislative functions. He now comes back to hold a still higher office with greater responsibilities. He returns to us in good company. Fortunate in the association as well as in all the other particulars of his career, he comes, introduced by, in the closest intimacy with, championed by, his friend and provincial chief, the Minister of Railways. Well do I recollect that it was from the fervent eloquence of my friend, the President of the Council, garnished with episodes from Holy Writ, that I learned my first estimate of the political character of the hon. Minister of Railways, and I am bound to say that all subsequent experience upon that score has convinced me with an ever-increasing and deepening conviction of the sagacity of comprehension, the accuracy of view, which my hon. friend the President of the Council had as to the public character of the hon. Minister of Railways when he gave to us all that estimate which still remains on record, and long will remain on record. It is but fitting that, after this length of time, the eulogist and the subject of the panegyric should appear, as they ought to appear, together. It is but fitting that these close and friendly associations, naturally resulting from the warm and zealous efforts of the hon. President of the Council, to place in his true light the hon. Minister of Railways, should be rewarded by his attaining

Mr. BLAKE.

under the auspices of the latter his present position, and we rejoice to know that they are now publicly, as well as privately, associated, no doubt, in the earnest effort, in their responsible positions, to verify by still further proofs, to give still further testimony to the truth of that estimate. I wish them no worse fortune than that they may succeed, than that they may, to adopt the phrase of the hon. gentleman, be loaded down with the share of the offerings that fall to the priest, and that they may be able early and once for all to convince the public that these eulogies are true and are applicable, not merely to their author, but also to their object. My hon. friend, in referring to the Ministerial changes, did not allude to another subject to which we must all refer with regret, but which is of sufficient public interest that I should ask an explanation regarding it. We are led to believe that the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is unfortunately seriously ill. I wish to know if it is expected that he will resume his seat this Session, and whether it is intended his office should continue in its present condition for any considerable length of time?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is quite true my answer was rather in the form of a statement, because I really did not think it required much explanation. In the first place, the fact of the late Minister of Justice being appointed Chief Justice and withdrawing from the Government necessitated his place being filled, and it was filled accordingly by Sir Alexander Campbell. The hon. gentleman objects very much to the Minister of Justice being in the Upper House. I think if any one ought to be there it ought to be the Minister of Justice. In fact, the office of the Minister of Justice is analogous to that of the Chancellor of England in the House of Lords—where all matters of legislation are revised. The Department of Justice is not a spending department in any great degree, as the salaries of the different Justices are appointed by statute. By the re-appointment of the present Postmaster General, we bring back to this House, for the efficiency of which my hon. friend is so anxious, the office which is a large paying Department. My hon. friend alluded to the fact that the present Secretary of State acted for the Attorney-General in the matter of the Streams Bill. That was simply because the late Minister of Justice did not happen to be in his place at the time he had prepared his report and did not sign it, but he is responsible for it, and readily assumed the responsibility. As to the remarks respecting the hon. President of the Council, I am very glad to see that the hon. gentleman pays so much attention to his opinions, and is so much impressed with his judgment and ability. I can only say he will exhibit the same eloquence, power, efficiency and ability in his present office. With respect to the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, I regret to state that, since his health broke down very painfully last summer, he has not materially improved. His physical health has increased, but his nervous debility has not been removed. We hope it will; and we think it but fair an opportunity should be given for the recuperative powers of nature to exercise their effect. In the meantime the public service loses nothing, as the President of the Council performs the duties of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries; duties which his acquaintance with our marine interests renders him well able to fulfil.

Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT. We all agree cordially with the last remarks of the Minister of the Interior. We trust that the rest he is about to obtain may restore the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to his duties. As to the point made by the hon. Minister of the Interior, that the Department of Justice is best administered in the Upper House, it has certainly the merit of novelty on this side of the Atlantic. I am not aware that we are about to make our Minister of