

ventured to say that the whole lighthouse business of the country did not equal that of many postmasters (hear). Then the Minister of Militia would have the country believe that in order to administer affairs connected with 40,000 men for eight days of the year, his services as head of the department were needed. He told the House that he stood at the head of a grand army of 700,000; but without being Minister at all, an honourable member of the House recently told them he was in command of 300,000 men.

Hon. Mr. McGee said he had stated that he represented the views of 300,000 men on the occasion referred to.

Mr. Mackenzie—Well, the honourable gentleman "represented" 300,000, so that the Minister of Militia could not boast so much of his 700,000 men. (Hear). His (Mr. Mackenzie's) impression was that the departments of Militia and Marine ought to have been combined. The three offices he had indicated might have been dispensed with, and if the Ministry found it desirable to obtain more assistance, they could have either appointed an associate in the Cabinet, with nominal duties, or have heads of the departments as in England, in order to discharge all the duties except those which necessarily required the immediate attention of Ministers themselves. He would much rather have been able to approve of the policy of the first Ministry of the Dominion on this occasion than to oppose it, for though he had opposed them during the elections, yet they had succeeded. He felt bound to sustain them as the Government of the country in everything that really affected its present and prospective welfare. Believing, however, that the Government had erred in this matter, he felt bound to record his convictions of the error they had made, and hoped that even yet they would retrieve themselves by dispensing with two of these departments, now that they had an opportunity.

Hon. Mr. Galt expressed his high approval of the remarks which had just been addressed to the House by the member for Lambton. Although he could not agree with him in his conclusions, they had been sustained by argument, and ought to be met in the same way. He (Mr. Galt) thought it was an advantage that there should be some members of the Government not overcharged with departmental work, who might be able to take up some of the important subjects

which would from time to time arise, and give their whole minds to them. The necessity for the number of officers in the Cabinet, therefore, should not be judged by the number of departments requiring to have their heads fully employed. There was the necessity also of having a fair representation for each Province, and in this view he held that the Premier judged wisely in recommending that the number of Cabinet Ministers should be thirteen. As regarded the subdivision of the Finance Department, he thought the Minister of Justice had put the case very clearly. He quite concurred in the view of that honourable gentleman as to the responsibility of the Minister of Finance under the new system of subdivision of offices. The Minister primarily responsible for the expenditure of the country must be entrusted with the responsibility of recommending to Parliament the measures of taxation by which it was to be met. Mr. Galt proceeded to urge the advantages of having a Treasury Board, which he said was an extension to Canada of a system which had worked admirably in England. The subdivision of offices being admitted, it would be impossible to maintain the harmony which ought to subsist between the systems of Customs and Excise in their relations to each other. Such subdivision he considered was necessary. If the Department of Finance covered the whole legislation, it was impossible for one Cabinet Minister to perform the work. The member for Lambton thought the Customs and Excise might have been united in one department. There were many reasons why this should not be done. The Customs related to foreign trade, the inland revenue had an entirely different bearing. It was only where the burden on the people had to be considered that it was necessary to have harmony between them, and that was effected by the Finance Minister having a controlling influence in originating the Legislation. The duties of the Fisheries Department might not be very onerous, but that department was necessary. If for no other reason in order that the Maritime Provinces might have the assurance that what was a prominent interest would always have a hearing at the Council Board. He went on to argue the importance and necessity of the Militia Department and that of the Secretary of State for the Provinces. If the Minister of Militia had any spare time, he was of all others the man best fitted to turn it to good account by devolving it to other matters requiring the attention of the Government.

[Mr. Mackenzie (Lambton).]