

Mr. Rymal said he knew certain people who had been charged with taking vows upon themselves which they did not intend to perform. (Hear, hear).

The Committee then rose and reported progress.

DEPARTMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Sir John A. Macdonald then moved the second reading of the Bill for the organization of the Department of Marine and Fisheries on which a debate arose on the general question of Departmental organization.

Sir John A. Macdonald, to show the importance of this Department, read from the Bill the list of matters falling within its province, and also a communication from Hon. Mr. Mitchell, narrating with a good deal of minuteness the multifarious duties devolving on him. He then stated that in connection with this Bill it might be well to have the general discussion as the number of Departments and duties assigned to them. (Hear, hear). The first step, of course, to having an efficient administration of public affairs was to have an organization of departments under responsible heads, these heads being members of the Privy Council and advisers of the Crown, with respect not only to their own department but to the conduct of affairs generally. Before the Union the affairs of the old Province of Canada were administered by a Cabinet, the number of which had come to be nearly settled, as far as practice could settle it, at twelve members. At the Union, new elements were introduced, two large and important Provinces, having distinct governments and parliaments, were absorbed into the Union. At the formation of a new Government the first question which had to be considered, and which he primarily had to consider, having had the honour to be entrusted with the formation of the first Ministry, was as to how to form an administration on principles the best calculated to work out the Union Act. In the first place, it seemed necessary that all the Provinces which composed the Union should be adequately represented in the Government. The first thing to be guarded against was the raising of sectional jealousies, and he felt that no one individual whatever might be his ability, his position, his standing in his own Province, could be held to be a sufficient representation of that Province. It was a great support to a man, and gave him a feeling of assurance that he was right, when

he could consult with and receive the concurrence of others in whom he had confidence, who represented the same interests; and no one man leaving his own house in the Maritime Provinces and coming to Ottawa, far away from those with whom he had been accustomed to act, but must feel himself at a loss if left to act for his own Province without the countenance and support of any one else. It was, therefore, felt that in the formation of a new Government, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia could not be represented in the Cabinet by less than two for each. He admitted that under the constitution there was no special necessity for sectional representation in the Cabinet of the Dominion. In the old Province of Canada, there was *ex necessitate* a dual representation in the Cabinet, each Province having an equal number of representatives; but after the Union that necessity disappeared, the sectional rights and privileges of each Province being protected by its own Local Government and Parliament. As in the Imperial Cabinet, all, so far as the constitution was concerned, might be Englishmen, Irishmen or Scotchmen, so in the Dominion Cabinet, all might be from one Province. The only thing necessary was that the Cabinet, wherever its members came from, should enjoy the confidence of a majority of the representatives of the people in Parliament; but as a matter of practical arrangement in this country as in England, in order to obtain that confidence it was absolutely necessary that all the great sections of the country should be represented in the Cabinet. In looking over the lists since 1800, it would be seen that in the Cabinet of Great Britain there had always been representatives of England, Ireland, and Scotland. The reason was that the people of each section could not expect their interests to be sufficiently attended to unless they had representatives in Government as well as in Parliament. It had been deemed necessary, therefore, that there should be a full and fair representation of every Province in the Cabinet. Each of the Maritime Provinces having received representatives, the least that could be given to Quebec, with a due regard to population, was four, while the least that could be given to Ontario, the largest Province of the Confederation was five. And there was another reason for giving this number to Upper Canada. That Province had been divided into two political hostile parties, which had been struggling against each other for many years. Confederation was carried by a