

assistance wherewith they might carry the next election. That was what the hon. gentleman, who proposed the measure, desired, and if he (Mr. Mitchell) had to stand alone in this matter, he would ask the House to divide and endeavour to prevent the people from being saddled with the expense which would be caused by the appointment of an Attorney-General. If this appointment was sanctioned, and the present Government, to the misfortune of the country, was returned, they would add a fourteenth office, then a fifteenth and so on. They claimed to be the economical party; he maintained that they were the extravagant party. They had developed more extravagance, more recklessness and more want of consideration for the interests of the people than any other Government he had ever known, and the sooner this country understood that fact the better. He would therefore ask the Committee to divide and refuse to pass the first section of the Bill. He would ask them whether it was necessary to have an additional member in the House. He said boldly that there were too many legal gentlemen in the Government of the country. What they wanted were business men, farmers, mechanics, merchants and those connected with the interests of navigation. The whole aim and object of lawyers was to legislate for the purpose of creating the means of bringing bills of costs on this country. Who brought in the Insolvent Law? The lawyers, with one or two others. He trusted, therefore, that this legal monopoly would be broken down, and that business men would be able to take a fair share in the work of the Administration.

Mr. MASSON said he was taken to task a few minutes ago by the hon. the Postmaster General, who in a flurry of high-toned morality, found fault with a few remarks which he (Mr. Masson) had made as being disparaging to the House and himself. Throughout his career he had always endeavoured, as a public man, to discuss public matters in such a way as not to bring down upon himself a taunt such as that which he received that evening. If he had been guilty of any offence

in making use of the observations which he submitted, he would ask how guilty was Mr. Dorion, now Chief Justice of the Province of Quebec, in his dealing with the Bar and Bench of Lower Canada? He would read the remarks made by that gentleman, and leave it to the House to judge whether he should have been entrusted with the highest judicial position in Canada or not. The extract which he proposed to read was contained in the *Ottawa Times* report for 1868.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I would be inclined to contest its accuracy.

Mr. MASSON: I heard it myself. It is as follows:—

“Hon. Mr. DORION said of the twenty-three Judges of the Provinces, six were totally unfit for office from age or infirmity, while one was grossly unfitted from his immoral conduct and a scandal to the bench, and others from their ignorance of law. The hon. Minister of Justice would, on enquiry, easily ascertain that of the twenty-three, thirteen were from one or other of these causes manifestly incompetent, and would have no difficulty in learning their names. He was of the opinion that the Bar of Lower Canada was not sufficient to supply the necessary number of first-rate men for the position, but thought that the best selections had been made. The position of Queen's Counsel led naturally to the Bench, and one of these had entered the profession by fraud and false representation; another had been a low swindler and scoundrel and compelled, in consequence, to submit to voluntary expatriation. Others had never had any practice at all, and any of these they might see by-and-by sitting as Judge. The degradation of judicial administration in Quebec had reached an extent altogether unparalleled, but he hoped that the Minister of Justice would, for the honour of his own profession, take care that no future appointments were made except of gentlemen competent for the position.”

Mr. LAFLAMME: What is said as to the appointment of Queen's Counsel is perfectly true.

Mr. MASSON: And the Judges?

Mr. LAFLAMME: I did not hear that part.

Mr. MASSON: Well, I hope, at all events, after what I have read, that you will reward me as Mr. Dorion was rewarded.

First and second clause *agreed to*.

Mr. MITCHELL moved that clause 3 be struck out of the Bill. He said his