

if they were to be blessed with a continuance of good health, (and he might indeed have added with long life, for a long time would apparently be necessary for such a result), they might expect to hold office themselves, and that with this consideration they could not wisely consider it advisable to touch the Departmental arrangements by which they would one day find themselves relieved from all small business of detail. He might be permitted to suggest that if Ministers were not to be expected to familiarize themselves with points of detail, and to give information upon them when asked for it, it would be well to form a Board of Clerks, perhaps one Board of Minor and one of Major Clerks, to whom reference might be made upon subjects of greater or lesser importance. The Minister of Militia had pursued a different argument, and he must agree that if he (Sir George) could not make a question clear, it must be from the weakness of his position, and from no fault of his own, whose industry and capability were exhaustive. The Minister of Militia had told him that in perfecting the departmental arrangements the territorial element must necessarily be taken into consideration. If so, it had not been observed closely. Two members of the Cabinet had been taken from Montreal, while there was not one to represent the eastern townships. Quebec had furnished one, but from between Quebec and Montreal there had not been any. It was the same in Ontario. In the little town of Kingston, a city he believed, but certainly a very small one, there were to be found two, and in Toronto one, but in the whole Ottawa district and through the whole western peninsula and the Georgian Bay district, the most productive section of the West, there had not been one Cabinet Minister selected. Then it had been urged that the element of nationality must be regarded, and he (Mr. Jones) might say that he would never like to see any Cabinet where the French population were unrepresented. They were the worthy descendants of a noble race. Nor, he might add, would he wish to see the Minister of Militia occupying any lesser place. But there was more than one very important nationality overlooked altogether. England and Wales had no Cabinet representation, while the smallest of the component sections of the United Kingdom had no less than four. The Irish element was similarly disregarded. That element numbered 600,000, or nearly half the population of Ontario. How was it that the principle maintained in Quebec had been

[(Mr. Jones (Leeds & Grenville).]

abandoned in Ontario? Was it that the Irish element possessed no members worthy of such position, or was it by accident. By the latter perhaps, but, if so, by an accident regularly recurring when a particular person was at the head of the Government. (Laughter). Coincidences of so constant a character acquired the dignity of natural laws. (Laughter.) He had, however, hoped that from the Dominion Government we should have heard less of national distinctions. We had hitherto been always necessarily a heterogeneous people, but he had hoped that we might have now at least begun to assume homogeneous character. Referring to the great increasing expenses of the Government he went on to compare the out-lays of recent years. The civil list of 1851 had amounted to \$132,412, and that of 1867 to \$375,179, while in 1868 it had come up to \$605,169, and for 1869 was to be swelled to \$651,366, showing since '67 an increase of \$188,269, entirely independent of the large subsidies to Quebec and Ontario. What was to be the goal of such a progress? The cost of governing three and a half millions of people amounted to more than the whole expenses of the Government at Washington. It might be said that we should not look to Washington for examples, but he considered that we were right to look in any direction where economic Government was being carried on. Then in the Militia Department we had an increase of 1868 over 1867 expenditure of \$18,045, and on this point he could assure honourable gentlemen opposite that much dissatisfaction prevailed in Ontario. Volunteers were willing and were able to do all the duty, but they were badly paid, and large sums which should properly go to them had been used in the maintenance of a useless staff at Ottawa. Then again in the Finance Department, there was greatly increasing expenditure (Hon. Mr. Holton. Hear, hear.) \$59,091 in 1867, had been swelled to \$75,012 in 1868, an excess of \$15,921; that would be bad enough in itself, but contingencies had to be considered in addition, and indeed, he thought the Government might as fairly and more conveniently propose every contemplated increase under one lump contingent sum. These with customs \$41,622, and Inland Revenue \$25,000, made a total increase of \$93,000 in the Finance administration. Then the Secretary of State, including \$25,000 for contingencies, absorbed \$60,809. The honourable member went on to refer more particularly to the Ordnance Lands and Indian Branch of the Department, and after