

would be an insensible operation in the mind of the Judge, whose own interests were in the scale as well as those of the clients, in favor of the Minister; and if this feeling could creep in among the high-minded members of the legal profession, and he believed that it would, what would they say as to the great mass of the uninformed people of the country, who were forced to go into the Courts, and very often in reference to their dearest rights? There would be a feeling of complete insecurity, and where the Judge decided in favour of the Minister of Justice or of the claim and plea and advocacy of the Minister of Justice, upon whom his own promotion depended, the party who was decided against would be convinced in many cases, that had that decision been rendered altogether regardless and apart from the position of the Minister of Justice, who was standing in the presence of the Judge, it would have been a different one. He (Mr. Tupper) spoke for himself alone in regard to this matter, and he held the strongest opinions in this respect. He, consequently, regretted very much that the hon. member for South Bruce, so high an authority—who had conformed his practice, he (Mr. Tupper) was bound to say, to the loudly-uttered public sentiment of the country, and felt it due to that public sentiment, which, no doubt, was the sound practice—say that the Minister of Justice should be open to pursue his private professional practice in the Courts; and, in fact, that it was necessary he should be allowed to do so, in order to obtain such an amount of ability and talent for that office as it was in the interest of the country to secure. He believed that it would be possible to do so; and that the high position this office conferred, and the great legal distinction and the great power that it gave, and the enormous patronage with which it invested the Minister, would be quite sufficient to induce gentlemen to accept the position, and the past had shown that the country could command, and had commanded, the very highest professional talent in this country for the office of Minister of Justice. He believed that they need have no fear as to the future in

this respect, that the same thing would be found to be true, and that gentlemen, however high and however great their personal emoluments were to them, had their ambitions and desires for a wider field of usefulness, and scope of influence, who would be found ready to accept it. The greatness of the position itself warranted this belief, and it was an infinitely greater position when filled irrespective of devotion to one's private interests, than if these were constantly commingled. He considered that it would be a fatal mistake to permit the practice in question to obtain. Every person knew of, and the hon. the Minister of Justice had borne testimony to, the large amount of work that was in this Department; and if a Minister of Justice of the highest standing and the highest legal ability, and one of the first men in the profession, found that these duties were too onerous, what would be said, and how would he attempt to perform these duties at all, if he was in a position to be constantly urged, as he would be, and sought after, as would be the case in consequence of his great ability, to go into the country from one end of it to the other, in order to pursue his private professional business; having his mind not only so occupied, but, also, his time. He (Mr. Tupper) maintained that the country was entitled to obtain, in consideration of the position this Minister held, all his time. Private work would make a demand upon his intellectual power such as would render him utterly unequal to the discharge, in the way they ought to be discharged, of the great and important duties relating to the office of Minister of Justice. He did not intend to prolong this discussion. This was a question on which a layman ought almost apologize for offering an expression of opinion to the House; but he could not, as a member of the House, see a change made, which he regarded as one of the highest moment, and made, as he believed, in the wrong direction, and in a way that would be prejudicial to the public interests, involving, as it did, a very large and increased charge on the public revenue of the country, without uttering, as far as he was concerned, a strong