

and take office with those to whom they had been politically opposed for this reason. (Hear, hear, and cries of names). It is human nature that honourable gentlemen should be attracted by the honour of obtaining a seat in the Government of the country. It was an honourable ambition, and no one who sought honestly to obtain it ought to be blamed. Where there was a strong Government there was always a great temptation to conciliate that Government for the sake of obtaining position. This was inevitable, and if the policy of honourable gentlemen opposite were carried out, there would be just such a prospect as he alluded to before the House. The admission of every British colony on the continent into the Confederacy would, he hoped, take place before long. Before he left Parliament he trusted to see all these colonies obtain a representation in that Chamber, and if that occurred they must look to seeing the number of Cabinet Ministers increased, as indicated by the member for Hochelaga. That being the case, it is easy to foresee what ministerial influence might effect. If they extended the power of the Executive in that House, they extended an authority which they must presume to be dangerous to the liberties of the people. (Hear, hear).

Sir J. A. Macdonald—(Hear, hear).

Mr. Mackenzie appreciated that "hear, hear." It means to say that in a country governed such as this there was no serious danger of the liberties of the people; but he would recall for the benefit of the House a statement of the Minister of Public Works on this point, who expressed his conviction that even in railway matters the legislation of such a Government was highly dangerous to the civil and religious liberties of the people. So much would suffice with regard to the tendency of increasing the Executive power in Parliament. The Minister of Militia, in the course of his wandering, stated that there was no analogy between the United States system of government and that of the Dominion. He (Mr. Mackenzie) thought the Dominion had adopted the federal system of government, as had the United States. The Dominion, as also the United States, had adopted representation by population in the popular chamber, and the only difference lay in the constitution of the respective Senates. The member for Hochelaga had very justly shown that the civil affairs of the United States, comprising all the Dominion had to attend to, and a great deal more, were well

administered by seven officers. In considering the number of cabinet ministers necessary for the Dominion, he (Mr. Mackenzie) admitted reference must be had to the future, and in doing so he would desire not to speak dogmatically or to assert that a certain number would always be sufficient. But he thought the present Government made this mistake, when they organized the Government they commenced with the maximum number instead of commencing with the smaller number and proceeding upwards, if the interest of the country seemed afterwards to demand it. He could not but think that the policy of Government had been dictated quite as much from political necessity, from the exigencies of the moment, as from a desire to sustain the real interests of the country. The Minister of Militia went so far as to assert that Government should possess the confidence of all sections of this country. Well, it was clear they did not possess that confidence.

Hon. Mr. Cartier rose to explain. What he wished to convey to the House was that a Government had to be formed which would command the confidence of the people of the country, expressed through the members of that House. (Laughter).

Mr. Mackenzie said the honourable member must be corrected. That was not the statement he made. His words were "all sections of the country"; and one section of the country, Nova Scotia, was certainly entirely unrepresented. (Hear, hear). It had been urged by the Minister of Justice that in order to have a consulting body, some members of the cabinet must be relieved to a great extent from departmental duties, in order to enable them to attend to the general business of the Cabinet. He (Mr. Mackenzie) would far rather see two or three members appointed to office in the Government with little or no duty to perform, than see a department subdivided for such members when said department should not be so subdivided. There was the Department of Customs and Excise, for instance. The two were so necessarily allied together that he could not see how they could well be separated. Both these departments should be managed by one executive head. Then there was the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Nothing could be more ridiculous than the extraordinary attempt which had been made to find duties for that officer. It was said that the value of their light-houses and fisheries represented such a sum, and of course a minister must look after them. He