

Session, in regard to the *personnel* of the Administration and the distribution of the offices.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. With respect to the changes in the *personnel*, it is well known to the House that the health of the hon. member for Terrebonne (Mr. Masson), who was in the Government since its formation in 1878, unfortunately for us, and, I think, for the House and the country, broke down to a certain extent. My hon. friend, in his anxious desire to assist us, remained in office as long as possible, at our urgent solicitation, notwithstanding the pressure of his medical adviser. At last, however, we found we could not properly press him further. My hon. friend was in great danger of injuring his health permanently if he remained longer with us, and to our unanimous regret and sorrow we were obliged to say we could no longer press him to remain in the Government. He was succeeded by an hon. gentleman from his section of the country. Mr. Baby, the late member for Joliette, was promoted to the Bench, which, I believe, he will adorn, and his place was filled by a gentleman from his section of the country. The redistribution of offices was made in the manner we thought most conducive to the public service.

Mr. BLAKE. With respect to the arrangement made for the distribution of offices, I think a word or two requires to be said. So far as I know, this is the first occasion on which a department, connected with one of the two great branches of taxation, has been transferred from this House to the Senate. While there are but two members of that body who are Ministers, I quite agree that it is not at all unreasonable they should hold some important departments; but I think that it is contrary to precedent, and to the general understanding as to the mode of managing public business, that the great taxing departments should be represented by their Ministers otherwise than here. As to the other change in the distribution of offices, although that involves the loss to this House of the opportunity of representing to the chief of the Post Office Department our needs,—and it is certainly a very great advantage ordinarily,—yet I can heartily congratulate hon. gentlemen opposite on that particular change, believing, with them, that the interests of the country have been very much consulted in giving that important department to its present occupant, as compared with its late administrator, who, no doubt, will be able to discharge the less onerous duties attaching to the position of Secretary of State, while Sir Alexander Campbell will, no doubt, discharge better than the late administrator could have discharged, the duties of the Post Office. With regard to the changes that have taken place, to which the hon. gentleman (Sir John A. Macdonald) has referred, we are glad to know that our late colleague and friend, Mr. Baby, has exchanged a somewhat precarious position as a Minister for the honorable and permanent position of a member of the judicial bench. The hon. gentleman has stated that Mr. Baby was promoted to the Bench, and that created a vacancy. I had supposed the vacancy was required, and therefore Mr. Baby was promoted to the Bench; but I now understand the circumstances to be different. As to the other cause of change, I am sure all hon. members on this side of the House will agree in the regret which the hon. gentleman has expressed as to the circumstances which occasioned the resignation of the hon. member for Terrebonne. My hon. friend has been a member of Parliament ever since Confederation, and while we on this side have been unable to agree in his general views on politics, we have all admired the honesty of his course, the sacrifice to convictions which on occasions he has made, and the integrity of principle which has marked his public career. It was a source of deep regret to myself personally, and I am sure to those with whom I act, that his health should have so far failed as to require his leaving the Administration. I have to express my congratulations to the

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hon. gentlemen to whom the hon. leader of the Government has referred as gentlemen from the same sections of the country on their having succeeded the outgoing Ministers. The Minister of Militia swallowed the gnat last year, and, of course, makes no difficulty about the camel this time. The President of the Council strained at the gnat last year, but he looks to me as if he was disposed to swallow the camel this year.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think it was the other House that swallowed the camel. With respect to the offices: the Inland Revenue is not one of the paying departments, but it is one of the revenue departments of the Government; and it is quite true, as a general rule, it is well that it should be represented in this House; but, as perhaps the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) has already ascertained—I do not know where, in his time, but, at any rate, in our time—there is a feeling in the Senate that the co-ordinate branch of the Legislature ought to have a certain amount of representation in the Government in their body. With regard to the selection of the present incumbent of the office of Minister of Inland Revenue, Mr. Aikins, he was appointed for this reason: the position is one that requires a good deal of knowledge of commercial business and of the ways of dealers and traders. Mr. Baby had not that advantage; but still, I am happy to say, I am proud to say in his absence, that he filled that office most satisfactorily to his colleagues, and, I believe, satisfactorily to the country. He devoted himself most assiduously to the duties of his office, and he overcame the disadvantage which a lawyer was naturally supposed to labor under in filling the position of Minister of Inland Revenue. Mr. Aikins is a man who, as everybody knows, was in business a great many years, and we believe his practical knowledge will be of advantage in administering the department—a very difficult department, and a department which, as the hon. gentleman is aware, is continually liable to attack if the law is put in execution. That is the reason why Mr. Aikins was appointed to that office. With respect to the other changes, the hon. member for West Durham, with his usual kindness of heart and grace, made a special reference to the appointment of the Secretary of State. The reasons of his appointment was shortly these: Mr. Masson could no longer perform his duties as Minister of Militia,—and he is not the man to hold office unless he is able to perform them,—and we were exceedingly anxious to retain his services to the country and have the advantage of his advice. Mr. Masson said he could no longer perform the duties of any department calling on him for continuous labor and office work. We, therefore, asked the President of the Council to make way for him, and he was appointed President of the Council, and he held that office until his health compelled him eventually to retire. The present Postmaster General, Sir Alexander Campbell, who had been Postmaster General a good many years, and who understood the duties thoroughly, assumed the duties of Minister of Militia, but with the understanding that, so soon as new arrangements could be made, he would return to the office he had held so long and worthily. That is the whole story of the readjustment.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Mr. MACKENZIE, in moving for all papers, letters or telegrams, concerning the construction of the Canada Pacific Railway, including offers made for its construction and working to the Government before the delegation of Ministers left for England, and all similar offers made, while Ministers were in England, by European or other contractors or capitalists, with copies of all correspondence by letters or telegraph, with any parties, respecting the construction and working of the said Railway, said: I ask for these papers because no intimation was given by the Government on the