

ment of Public Works, and the other Departments, he would have found that every word and all the credit which he had taken to himself, and unfairly taken to himself, with relation to this matter, formed a censure of the strongest character with regard to the enormous extravagance and the over-expenditures which, by that line of argument, the hon. gentleman established against the hon. the Prime Minister and every one of his colleagues. The speech which the hon. member for South Bruce had made a few days ago had thrown, to his mind, the only light that had yet been cast on this extraordinary proposition, for he maintained that it was an extraordinary proposition for a party and a Government which denounced the present number of Cabinet Ministers as being altogether unnecessary, and claimed that seven were enough, and that nine was the outside number. Under these circumstances it was an extraordinary proposition for these gentlemen to bring forward the division of the office connected with the Administration of Justice. After they had denuded it of a large portion of its duties, and after, he believed, it was not contemplated that this office should be held in connection with the onerous and responsible and important office of the First Minister of the country,—under these circumstances there was no ray of light thrown upon this question but the laboured speech made on a former occasion by the hon. member for South Bruce; and this was on the occasion when the hon. gentleman maintained the right of the Minister of Justice of this country to practice his profession in the Courts of law while holding that office. If it were held that the Minister of Justice—and the hon. gentleman seemed to think that the only means by which such an amount of legal ability, and ability of such a high character as this office required, could be obtained would be by avoiding dis-severing the gentleman who filled the office from his own private professional duties which he owed to himself, and his clients—could do this, if this was sound doctrine and held and accepted as such, and the Government con-

curred in this view, he could then understand that this was a preliminary to the relieving of the Minister of Justice from almost all his duties, while another and a highly paid officer was brought into the Government, involving an enormous additional expense to the country; thus relieving that high functionary from the duties of Minister of Justice and allowing him to go into the Courts and practice his own private business and profession. He might say at the outset, he was afraid that his right hon. friend would disagree with him on this point; but he held the opinion—and he would do a violation to his opinion on this point if he did not state it—that a greater impropriety could not be perpetrated in this country. The very foundation of the administration of law and of the maintenance of the rights of the Bar in this country was that every barrister went before the Courts standing upon an equal footing, as far as his abilities and the knowledge of his profession that he possessed, allowed. The very foundation of the administration of justice, as it touched the right of every suitor in this country, must rest on the principle that, standing in the presence of the Courts, every advocate stood in precisely the same position, and obtained the justice for his clients that every just and fair consideration for his clients, as far as his ability and position went, would entitle him to; and it would be a fatal mistake to take any course that, while it did not touch in the least degree the rights of clients, would create, and necessarily create, a feeling among the Bar that they did not stand on an equal footing in presence of the Judge,—a feeling on the part of clients and the great mass of the people compelled to go into the Courts that their position was not such as would entitle them to fair, open and impartial justice. The very fact, and they could never dis-sever this from the position of Minister of Justice, that he was clothed with almost supreme power in this country in reference to promotions to and on the Bench, that enormous patronage was thrown into the hands of an officer powerful as this Minister, created the feeling—however unwillingly it might be—that there

MR. TUPPER.