

settled. They had advised His Excellency to the formation of certain Departments. (**Mr. Mackenzie**—That is the Ministers who had been appointed advised the Governor, after being sworn, to their previous appointment. (Laughter.) The honourable member quite misunderstood the operation (much laughter). On the first of July everything administrative was dead, or nearly dying (renewed laughter). The Governor found himself without advisers, and summoned them to his Privy Council, and the Privy Council had advised him to the creation of the Departments, and the country had ratified their advice when they had carried the elections (cheers and laughter). The number they had recommended could scarcely be thought excessive when they recollected that the old Province of Canada had been administered by only one less. He went on to defend the Departments to which Mr. Dorion had objected, asking how it had happened that when that honourable gentleman was himself in power, he had made the very same appointments. Reverting to the supposed large number of Executive Councillors he compared it with that of Ontario with but one Chamber, which was five, of Quebec seven, and of each of the Lower Provinces nine, to their very small number of legislators, and denied that the admission of the outside Provinces would necessitate the augmentation hinted at. The whole question simply resolved itself into this, that their obligation had been to secure representation before His Excellency of all the varying interests of each section of the people, and so carry out the true principles of British Government.

Mr. Mackenzie recognized the expediency and wisdom of discussing the question before the House, not merely with a view to party interests, but a view to the future of their national legislative existence, but while doing so, it became absolutely necessary to discuss, as the member for Hochelaga did, the amount of legislation of a departmental kind which was expected to be disposed of by Ministers. The Minister of Militia, in the course of a very rambling address, sought to establish an argument by a reference to the number constituting the Government of the late Province of Canada. That Government commenced with eight members. The number varied occasionally, but ultimately reached twelve, and remained stationary at that number till the end of its existence. As to the honourable member's statement that the famous Draper Government remained in power two years

[Mr. Cartier (Montreal East).]

with only three members, the honourable gentleman was mistaken. That Government came to an end in one year and was reconstituted, when it consisted of six or seven members. Another state of affairs under such a Ministry could not of course be spoken of as constituting a Government for any purpose whatever. Honourable gentlemen opposite argued that it was necessary the feelings of the country should be always represented in the Cabinet. Well, his (Mr. Mackenzie's) opinion was that it was an executive body, possessing the confidence of the House, but not supposed to represent the people except in that manner, and if it was claimed that the Cabinet should represent all sections of the people, then the present Government was a most unfortunate one, for a very important section of the people were entirely misrepresented in it. There was one whole Province of the Confederacy which had a solitary representative in the Government. She had failed to send a single member to represent her in the House; for though there might be members from that Province, men who sincerely desired to promote the Union and assist the Government, still they were said not to represent the feelings and interests of their people. The Cabinet, he understood, it was merely carrying on the business of the country with the consent of the House, and if that Cabinet was unnecessarily large, let honourable gentlemen mark what would be the result. The honourable Minister of Justice proposed in his speech that when the other Colonies came into the Union, there should be additional members added to the Cabinet. True, the Minister of Militia did put in a caveat to that position.

Sir J. A. Macdonald—I spoke of British Columbia.

Mr. Mackenzie—Surely the honourable gentleman does not pretend to say that the justice he would concede to British Columbia would be refused to Newfoundland. This argument led inevitably to the conclusion that every colony would be represented. Well, putting aside altogether the question of the inconvenience of multiplying departments, assuming there would be no such inconvenience how would Ministers in that House be affected? It was all very well to say no members would be affected to any appreciable extent by dangling the bait of office before their eyes. But he had known such things to happen. He had known honourable gentlemen to forsake their own colleagues