

responsibility, or the value of the advice or information given to the Departments and the Administration with respect to its legislation? Surely none; and if in this country any necessity existed for the abolition of the office of Receiver-General, ten times the necessity existed as to obtaining an additional Minister in order to dispose of the work which fell upon the legal Department.

MR. BLANCHET: Why put him in the Cabinet?

MR. LAFLAMME: Because it was indispensable that this officer should be in the Cabinet, because of the amount of legislation which had to be examined, and of the degree of responsibility incurred in regard to advice given to the different Departments, and because of the variety of our laws, as the hon. member for South Bruce had established. There were laws in almost one-half of the Dominion which were not and could not be familiar to the members of the Bar of other Provinces. The responsibility of a Minister of Justice who had no experience save that derived from practice in the Courts of Ontario or any other Province, was too great; and such a Minister could not, with any satisfaction to himself, or in justice towards those who applied to him from the Province of Quebec, give a safe and sound opinion without relying upon the assistance of a clerk or some one in his office. This was utterly impossible; and when they considered the fact that they had two such different systems of law, with such immense duties and responsibilities attached, it was evident that, under such circumstances, particularly since the fact was disclosed that the increase of business went on in so great a progressive proportion, it was their duty to provide for the more efficient administration of this Department, and that this had become an absolute necessity. The hon. member for Terrebonne had alluded to the *Parti National* having declared that at that time thirteen Ministers were too many. He would not follow the hon. gentleman in this relation. He (Mr. Laflamme) was not a member of the *Parti National* at the time. This might have been

their opinion at the time; but the question now before the House was not whether thirteen Ministers were too many or too few, but whether the Department of Justice required to be remodelled, and whether some more efficient assistance should not be devised, in order to satisfy the wants of the country and legislation. The hon. members for St. John and Kingston had referred to the fact that this Bill somewhat divided the responsibility and gave two heads to one Department, and only one deputy for the two heads of the Department. As far as the division of responsibility was concerned, the work was to be assigned, according to the provisions of the Bill, by an Order in Council, and hence there could be no possible interference or clashing whatever between the two heads of the Department. It was not the case with lawyers or with doctors. They generally agreed; and it was an immense advantage, as every member of the Bar knew, to have the assistance of counsel, and lawyers and their counsel generally came to an uniform decision after consultation. Such would be the result in this case, and it would be beneficial, because there was no member of the legal profession, as far as his experience went—and he was sure that in this he would be supported by hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House—who was not prepared and willing to have the assistance of counsel, especially in regard to any matter of great importance; and this would be the object of this measure. Each Department could be well defined, and there was nothing that could give rise to any suspicion of antagonism or clashing between the two officers who would be called upon to administer this Department; and he was perfectly satisfied that the result of this measure would be most beneficial in connection with the administration of public affairs.

Bill read the second time.

House resolved itself into Committee on said Bill.

(In the Committee.)

MR. MITCHELL said, before the clause was passed he wished to reiterate what he stated before. He looked