

States they have only seven, and the general rule throughout America is that there are either five or seven ministers. Even Mexico has only six; and our sister colony of New South Wales, where the revenue is larger than ours, has only nine ministers. To undertake, at the present time, in the face of a deficit of nearly six millions of dollars, and of a revenue falling rather than rising, to create another department, which will involve not merely a new minister but a new staff and a very large expenditure, is very unwise and improper and unnecessary.

If it is necessary that there should be some officer especially charged with the supervision of trade and commerce, I think the simpler way would be to combine two of the present departments, and give the department that was then to spare to a new minister—that is, if such a minister were necessary. For my part I do not see why the Finance Minister could not answer all questions dealing with trade, commerce and statistics here, as well as he does elsewhere. I am afraid that this proposition to create a new minister does not arise so much from the feeling that such an officer is necessary in the interests of the country as from the fact that the office is needed for some particular gentleman. In fact I have been given to understand that it is needed for a gentleman who finds that the office which he at present holds does not afford him that employment and that patronage which he feels his abilities demand. If that be the case, the creation of this new department is a most indefensible and unwise policy.

The sixth paragraph says that we shall be asked to consider the propriety of making such improvements in the organization of the Departments of Justice, Customs and Inland Revenue, as will provide greater facilities for the despatch of the large and increasing volume of business with which those departments are charged.

I do not exactly understand what the meaning of that paragraph is. It may be, with respect to the Department of Justice, that a subordinate officer shall be created to correspond to the Solicitor General of a province. Possibly such an officer might

be a desirable addition to the staff, though I am not sure. It does look as though the intention was to appoint more officials. I think we are too much governed in Canada altogether. We have too many heads of departments—nearly twice as many as we ought to have, and too many subordinates. I am satisfied that one-half the number of Civil Servants whom we have in Ottawa to-day would do the work done by the present staff better than it is done. The fact is that in some of the departments the employees are so numerous that they are simply in one another's way; and in order to give them employment the Ministers are obliged to devise a system of red tape which impedes rather than advances the work. The Circumlocution Office that Dickens wrote of was not much worse than some of the departments here, and there is the strongest objection to any addition to the Civil Service staff. The Government of the country costs a great deal more than the Government of a young and poor country like this should cost.

As to the proposed representation of the North-West Territories in the Senate, it is a matter to which we can have no objection. Four members are now supposed to represent the North-West Territories in the other Chamber. I said last Session, when the Bill to provide for that representation was going through the House, that the measure was so drawn that the Government might as well have been given power to appoint the four members for the North-West Territories. The result has proved that I was perfectly right. With a system of open voting, and the lists made up after nomination day, the elections were only a matter of form, and practically allowed the Government to appoint four gentlemen to represent the North-West. At the same time, I think it is better that it should be so, than that the North-West should be unrepresented; for, although those gentlemen may not represent the spontaneous feeling of the people of the North-West, they do to a certain extent represent the North-West, and will look after the interests of the country; and it is desirable that that portion of the Dominion should be represented in the Senate also.