

crease of the cabinet, but some other subdivision of labour between the ministers.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Those of us who listened to the introductory remarks in regard to this measure by the right hon. leader of the House, must have been convinced, by his statement of the fact, that the difficulties existing between capital and labour are of such a character as to justify any government in taking action by which such difficulties may be controlled as far as possible. I must confess that I have, personally, no sympathy with the statements that are being continually made, of the great danger which exists in this, or any other country, by the acquisition of wealth by those who enter into the different industries of the Dominion. All public men, to some extent, have given attention to the problem of what would be the best means of conciliating the interests of capital and labour; but the tendency of the age, is unfortunately, in favour of granting to the latter concessions, and submitting to demands and excesses which the laws of the country should govern and control to a greater extent than they do to-day; and that tendency is due mainly to the fact that men who are engaged in public life, and who have to depend upon the electorate for the positions they hold, are swayed to a very great extent by clamour which may exist out of doors, without having the courage to meet it. In England to-day, where the labour element has gained so much control as to have been able to elect many of their representatives, which is quite correct, and has succeeded in placing one representative in the cabinet, so far has that influence been carried, that those who have been placed in responsible positions as representing labour, have come to the conclusion that it is necessary to check the spread of socialistic tendencies to a great extent. The leaders of the labour party have been obliged to oppose in many cases the advances and the demands that have been made upon the government and upon the people, more particularly on those who have acquired some little wealth through their industry. Their demands are so serious that the government who shall devise some scheme by

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which to create an equilibrium of power and of authority between these two elements, will accomplish a very great thing. The remarks made by the leader of the government upon that point are of a character that most of us will endorse. Whether the creation of a new department will effect the reform suggested is a question upon which we are asked to deliberate. I am in accord with the sentiments expressed by the hon. gentleman from Middlesex. I do not think that the creation of a number of heads will accomplish the object the government have in view. Many of us remember that, when the late Premier of this country, Sir John A. Macdonald, introduced into the House of Commons a system by which controllers, who were to occupy positions similar to those of an Under Secretary of State in England, were appointed, it was very strongly opposed by the then opposition, as adding unnecessary trouble, unnecessary expense and unnecessary officials in the administration of the department. Now, the statement made that many of the ministers are overworked, I know to be quite correct. Just so long as the minister is obliged to deal with all the details of his department, so long will that condition of overwork continue to exist. The deputy head of each department in Canada occupies, except in name, the position that is occupied by the under secretaries of state, so far as the administration of affairs in England is concerned, with this difference, that the under secretaries of state have seats in the Commons, or in the House of Lords, and they are there to take the place of the minister in the explanation of Bills which are introduced affecting that particular department which the under secretary represents. The head of the department is not expected to be familiar with details, but with the policy, and to defend that policy when it is attacked in the Commons, or in the Lords. The under secretaries of state are expected to, and in fact do, perform the duties that are now performed by the minister, in explaining any question that may come up in the administration of the affairs of his department. If there is any matter affecting a colony, the representative of that colony is referred at once, if he