

the mother country, when reckoning the colonies, to count in this way: Canada, one; New South Wales, one; Victoria, one; Queensland, one. Now, this is not doing Canada justice at all. I desire to call the attention of the House to this matter because it is one of great importance and which will be of increasing importance to Canada as time goes on. The computation should not be in that line, but in this line: Canada, eight; New South Wales, one; Victoria, one; and so forth. It is surely too absurd to assume that because the British North American colonies have confederated, because they have advanced further on the path towards Imperial unity, than any other group of British colonies, the individual colonies composing that confederation are not to count for as much as the other colonies which have not advanced so far as we have. This group of colonies is the highest product, if I may so express it, of the forces which make for Imperial unity—the highest evolution produced by those forces; and it would be surely absurd to count the individual colonies composing this confederation, as less than those colonies which are not so highly developed.

Mr. SPEAKER. I would like to call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that it is not in order to make a speech when the adjournment of the House is moved for the purpose of concluding the business. The hon. gentleman should confine his remarks to the smallest possible limit.

Mr. McNEILL. I am not going to make a speech. I was just about concluding what I had to say. I was about to call attention to this, that when this reckoning was adopted in connection with the Colonial Conference held here a few years ago on the question of preferential trade within the Empire, a Minister of the Crown stated in the Imperial House of Commons that there had been a very considerable difference of opinion among the colonies on that question—that there was far from a unanimous feeling on the question; and why? Because, he said, the division was five to three. How did he arrive at that conclusion? By counting Canada one, New South Wales one, Tasmania one, and so forth. That is to say, the whole Dominion of Canada was held as of only equal value with the little colony of Tasmania. I think it cannot be too strongly pressed upon the attention of this House, that it is absolutely necessary in the interests of the Dominion that we should have it recognized in England that we are not to be counted as merely equal in value to one of the unfederated colonies, but that each of the colonies of this confederation is to be held as having a value of its own equal to that of each of the other separate colonies in those groups of colonies that have not been federated. I hope that when my hon. friend the Minister

Mr. McNEILL.

of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) comes to deal with this question, if we are to have an outburst of Imperial sentiment and of loyalty strangled by red tape, he will see, at all events, that the execution is performed in an orderly and decent manner.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). All I would say to my hon. friend is this: that the paragraph he alludes to I have not yet had an opportunity of seeing. In fact, at present, I am unable to find time to read many newspapers at all. I think he and the House will agree with me that we must really wait until we are officially communicated with by the Imperial Government through some other medium than the Ottawa "Citizen," before I can be expected to refer to the subject. I will lose no time in giving the fullest information to the press and to all parties concerned when the British Government's answer arrives, and is made known to us. With respect to the other point which my hon. friend has alluded to, I am and have always been disposed to insist on the superiority of Canada, and the officials of Canada over every other colony. There I am heartily in accord with him. As to the relative proportion of guests or military contingents that the British Government may choose to invite on this occasion, I must remind him that we are after all guests, and we cannot prescribe to the British Government how many guests they will have. That is for them to say. I have observed that in one respect, at any rate, they are perfectly willing to admit the greater population and resources of Canada. When it comes to the question of contributing to any purpose such as a Pacific cable, they are always willing to recognize our supremacy, and to give us the proud privilege of paying four times as much as any of the other colonies.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. While concurring with the observations made by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, I would like to ask him whether the statement which I see current in the press that Major General Gascoigne has offered the Imperial Government to send 600 men, is a correct statement?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. No, it is not a correct statement.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It is a very ludicrous one, I must say.

SUBSIDIES TO RAILWAYS.

Mr. MARTIN. I am sorry the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) is not in his place, as I would like, before this motion is carried, to ask him in regard to a statement which was ordered by this House last session, in reference to the expenditure on railways by the Dominion, all over the Domin-